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WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

# CLEAR LAKE RESOURCE AREA

## Cedar Roughs WSA
## and
## Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT

1986

U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA

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Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for the Cedar Roughs and Rocky Creek-Cache Creek Wilderness Study Areas in the Clear Lake Resource Area of our Ukiah District. The EIS analyzes the impact of adding 40,705 acres to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Several No Wilderness and Partial Wilderness alternatives are also considered. The statement was prepared pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and responds to the mandates of Sections 202, 203 and 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to review public lands and report on the suitability of these lands for wilderness designation; consider through the planning process additional areas that may be suitable; and report these suitability recommendations to the President no later than October 21, 1991.

Comments on this document should be sent to: State Director, Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825, not later than November 21, 1986 . For further information please contact: District Manager, Ukiah District Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 940, Ukiah, California 95482- 0940.

Sincerely yours,

Ed Hastey

Ed Hastey
State Director

BLM CA ES 82 026 8600 Rev 1984 Rev 1986

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

# FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

# WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

# FOR

# CLEAR LAKE RESOURCE AREA

CEDAR ROUGHS WSA
(CA-050-331)

AND

ROCKY CREEK-CACHE CREEK WSA
(CA-050-317)

Prepared by

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

UKIAH DISTRICT OFFICE, CALIFORNIA

Ed Hastey

State Director, California

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON THE
WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR CEDAR ROUGHS WSA AND ROCKY CREEK-CACHE CREEK WSA

Draft ( ) Final (X) Environmental Impact Statement

1. Type of Action: Administrative ( ) Legislative (X)

2. Abstract:

The Bureau of Land Management has analyzed the impacts and resource tradeoffs of proposals to not designate the Cedar Roughs Wilderness Study Area (WSA) or the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA as wilderness. These WSAs are in Lake, Yolo, and Napa Counties, California. They are part of BLM's Clear Lake Resource Area in the Ukiah District. This environmental impact statement also analyzes the impacts and tradeoffs of alternatives including all wilderness and partial wilderness. Wilderness characteristics and special features are examined.

## SUMMARY

This EIS is part of a management framework plan amendment (MFP-A) for the Clear Lake Resource Area. The Clear Lake Resource Area is part of the Ukiah District and is located north of the San Francisco Bay Area and west of the Sacramento River. It includes all or portions of Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo counties. The Cedar Roughs WSA is located entirely within Napa County directly west of Lake Berryessa. The Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA is located primarily in Lake County east of Clear Lake, with a small portion in Yolo County.

Considered for Cedar Roughs were a Proposed Action of no wilderness/no action, and an All Wilderness Alternative. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was discarded as impractical. In the Proposed Action the entire area would remain both a Research Natural Area (RNA) and an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Issues analyzed for this WSA were impacts on wilderness values, impacts on the Sargent cypress stand, impacts on the black bear population, and impacts on recreational use levels.

Considered for Rocky Creek-Cache Creek were a Proposed Action of no wilderness/no action in addition to All Wilderness and Partial Wilderness Alternatives. Under the Proposed Action about one-third of the WSA will remain an RNA and a smaller overlapping corridor along Cache Creek will remain an ACEC. Issues analyzed for this WSA were impacts on the following: wilderness values, water quality, hunting and fishing use levels, gold and mercury mining development, geothermal and oil and gas development, whitewater boating use levels, bald eagle winter population levels, and tule elk habitat.

A summary of the impacts of the Proposed Actions and alternatives is contained in Tables 1 and 2.

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# Chapter 1

# Introduction

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) considers the possible consequences of wilderness designation, partial, and nondesignation for two wilderness study areas (WSAs) in the Clear Lake Resource Area in the Bureau of Land Management's Ukiah District, California. The analysis evolves from a requirement included by Congress in Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) directing the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to review roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more having wilderness characteristics and by 1991 to recommend to the President the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness. Under Sections 202 and 203 of FLPMA, BLM can, through its planning system, recommend additional lands for wilderness designation. In determining wilderness values, the law directs the Bureau to use the criteria given by Congress in the Wilderness Act of 1964. In Section 2(c) of the Act, Congress states that "wilderness is essentially an area of undeveloped Federal land in a natural condition, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

### LOCATION

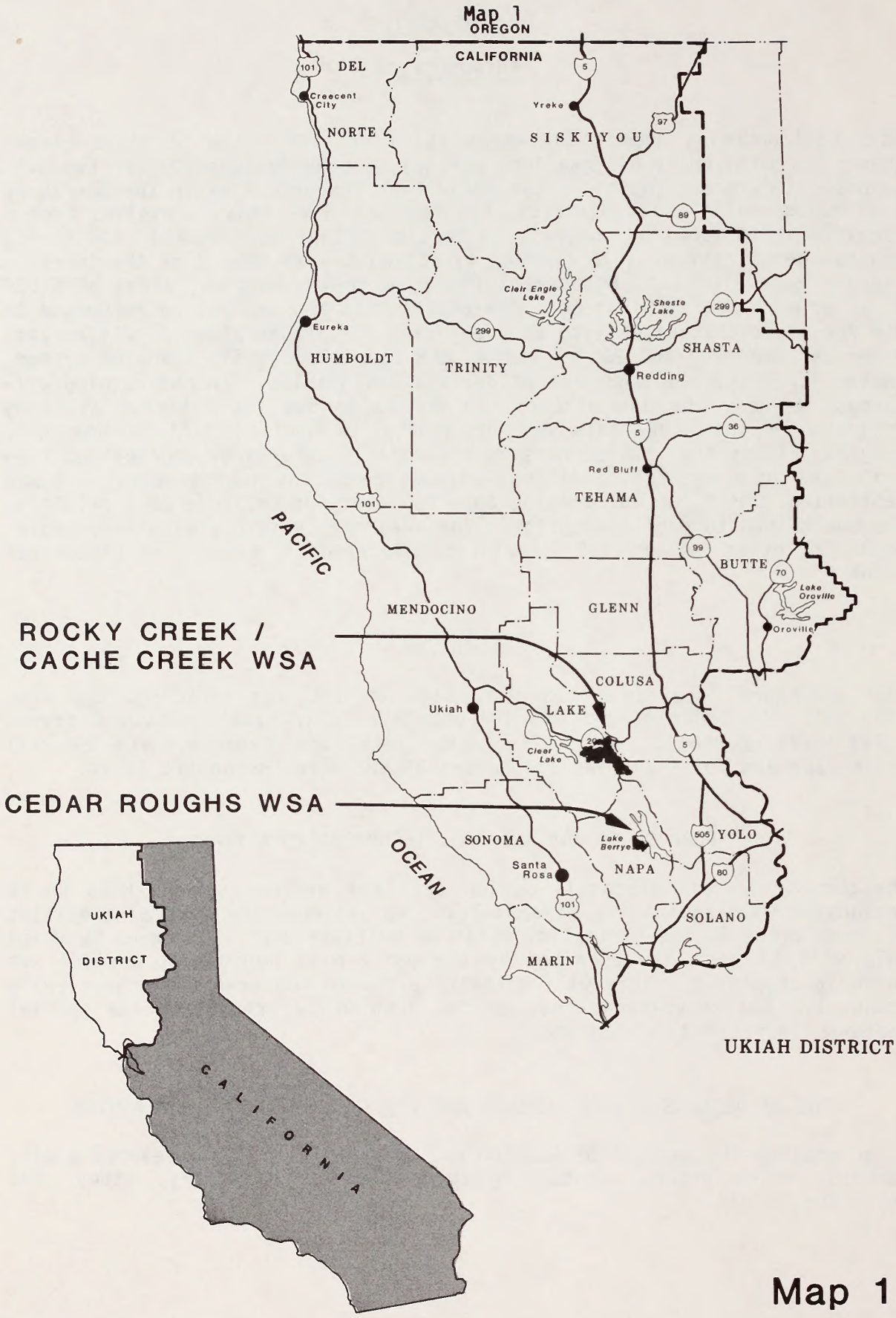
Both WSAs are located within 100 miles of the San Francisco Bay Area (Map 1). The Cedar Roughs WSA (CA-050-331) is in Napa County and covers 5,597 acres of public lands. The Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA (CA-050-317) is in Lake and Yolo counties and covers 33,582 acres of public lands.

### PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTIONS

The purpose of the proposals (which call for neither of the WSAs to be designated wilderness) is, nevertheless, to preserve the natural amenities of these areas in the context of balanced multiple use. The means by which this will be done is described by the pattern of management actions set forth in Chapter 2. This will contribute toward the need for economically productive and recreational use of the land while preserving the special features identified in each WSA.

### THE WILDERNESS REVIEW PROCESS AND ITS INTEGRATION WITH PLANNING

To accomplish the mandate of Section 603 of FLPMA, the BLM developed a wilderness review process containing three phases: inventory, study, and reporting.




Map 1

Location Map

The inventory phase of this process, initiated in 1978, involved examining the public lands to determine and locate the existence of areas containing wilderness characteristics that met the criteria established in the Wilderness Act. Areas clearly lacking wilderness characteristics were sorted out from lands that might have those characteristics. This intensive inventory was then followed by a 90-day public review period, after which final WSAs were identified.

This inventory process and a general description of all of California's WSAs are given in Wilderness: Final Intensive Inventory, Public Lands Administered by BLM California Outside the California Desert Conservation Area (1979). A copy of this publication is available at any BLM office.

The second step in the review process was to integrate wilderness evaluation into the BLM Planning System (43 CFR 1600), which, in this case, is a Management Framework Plan (MFP) amendment for the Clear Lake Resource Area. The wilderness study criteria and quality standards contained in the BLM's Wilderness Study Policy: Policies, Criteria and Guidelines for Conducting Wilderness Studies on Public Lands (47 FR 5098-5122) were applied to each WSA.

In addition to the above referenced criteria and standards, issues for discussion were identified through public comment and internal scoping, conflicts were analyzed, and alternatives were developed. See page 15 for a discussion of which alternatives were selected and why. These alternatives are the basis for analysis of environmental consequences and resource tradeoffs.

Following public review of the draft environmental impact statement, the Ukiah District, with State Director concurrence, prepared a final environmental impact statement and wilderness study report. These were reviewed by the BLM Director and the Secretary of the Interior, who filed this final EIS and who will make a recommendation to the President. The President has up to two years to make his final recommendation to Congress, which has sole authority to designate an area as wilderness. Until Congress decides whether or not to designate an area as wilderness, the WSAs will be managed in accordance with the Bureau's Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (Department of the Interior, December 1979).

## SCOPING

The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR, Part 1501.7) and the BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-1) require an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. During this process, the scope and importance of issues related to the proposed action and alternatives were identified. Information obtained during the scoping process was one of the sources used to determine which impact topics would be addressed in detail in this EIS. Additional purposes of the scoping process are to inform affected Federal, state, and local agencies and other interested

parties about the proposed project, and to identify existing environmental reports and information related to the impact assessment.

The scoping process involved discussions with the public and resource specialists and managers of BLM and other relevant agencies. Written comments were received and compiled as a result of Federal Register announcements, news releases, mailings, and articles about the proposal. Comments were also solicited during public meetings. In addition, the initial scoping effort has been followed by an effort to continue agency and public involvement throughout the development of this EIS. Comments on the draft EIS (see Table 3, page 76) were carefully considered in the selection of issues for the final EIS. This section outlines the steps taken by BLM in the scoping and public involvement process for the EIS.

## SCOPING PROCESS

* Initial wilderness inventory and public comment period - 1978-1979.

* Intensive wilderness inventory and public comment period - 1979-1980.

* BLM study and planning process - 1980-1982.

* A Notice of Intent to prepare a revision of the Clear Lake Resource Area Management Framework Plan and the environmental impact statement for the two wilderness study areas was later published in the Federal Register on January 14, 1982. A correction was published in the Federal Register on March 5, 1982, stating that the preparation of the Clear Lake MFP would be accelerated in order to complete the preliminary final environmental impact statement for the wilderness study areas in September 1982.

* A scoping letter was mailed in February 1982 to over 400 organizations, agencies, and individuals on the Ukiah District's mailing list that had indicated an interest in wilderness. This letter explained the planning process and asked for identification of issues for the Clear Lake MFP in general and the wilderness study areas in particular.

* In June 1982 the draft EIS was mailed to 139 individuals and organizations. Comments received were used to refine the issues analyzed in this document.

## ISSUES SELECTED FOR ANALYSIS

### Cedar Roughs WSA

1. Impacts on Wilderness Values

   The wilderness values of naturalness, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive recreation, and various special features of the WSA could benefit from wilderness designation. The same values may be adversely affected by uses and actions that would occur should the WSAs not be designated wilderness.

2. Impacts on the Sargent Cypress Stand

The Sargent cypress stand and associated vegetation constitute a unique community that was the primary reason for the establishment of the RNA and ACEC. A decision for or against wilderness designation could hinge in part on potential impacts to the cypress stand.

3. Impacts on the Black Bear Population

Black bears are of high general public interest. The only known breeding population in Napa County is within the WSA. Bear hunting and bear/human conflicts are topics that future management plans will have to address. Wilderness designation could change the options available for black bear management by enforcing a total ban on vehicle use.

4. Impacts on Recreational Use Levels

The BLM District and Resource Area Offices receive frequent (at least weekly) calls regarding foot trail access to the Sargent cypress stand. This interest would increase under wilderness designation. Conversely, existing limited ORV use of the area would be discontinued. These are matters of local concern.

Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA

1. Impacts on Wilderness Values

The wilderness values of naturalness, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive recreation, and various special features of the WSA could benefit from wilderness designation. The same values may be adversely affected by uses and actions that would occur should the WSAs not be designated wilderness.

2. Impacts on Water Quality

The water produced in the watersheds within the WSA is important for agriculture, recreational use, and wildlife. Potential water quality impacts from valid existing mining claims and associated access road development are a significant concern under either designation or non-designation of wilderness.

3. Impacts on Hunting and Fishing Use Levels

Much of the current hunting (primarily for deer) and fishing (primarily for catfish) access to the area is accomplished by using ORVs, which would not be allowed under wilderness designation. Access by foot and horse trail is also used by those without vehicle access and could be expanded under wilderness designation. (There is virtually no ORV use other than for hunting and fishing access.)

4. Impacts on Gold and Mercury Mining Development

There are approximately 300 mining claims in the WSA. The majority of these are gold claims owned by Homestake Mining Company and Storm King. Although only 10 claims, all for mercury, have been patented, a small potential for increased mining development exists (as evidenced by the adjacent Homestake Mine) and would be affected by wilderness management restrictions.

5. Impacts on Geothermal and Oil and Gas Development

About 50 percent of the WSA is part of a Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA). More than half of the remainder of the area is blanketed with noncompetitive geothermal lease applications and oil and gas leases. There has been very little exploration and no development of these resources in the WSA to date. Development potential is considered to be low. However, wilderness designation could impact possible future development.

6. Impacts on Whitewater Boating Use Levels

Whitewater rafting on Cache Creek is the most important recreational use within the WSA and it is projected to increase under wilderness designation. Wilderness designation would affect access for boaters both by providing for public access and by restricting access to the WSA during times identified as critical to bald eagles and tule elk.

7. Impacts on Bald Eagle Winter Population Levels

Approximately 60 bald eagles spend much of the winter in portions of the WSA along Cache Creek. These birds are an attraction of regional importance. Although they are protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act, they could be impacted by the Proposed Action and alternatives.

8. Impacts on Tule Elk Habitat

Tule elk occupy the northern half of the WSA which is cooperatively managed with the California Department of Fish and Game. The herd, currently numbering about 200 animals, is of considerable local and regional interest. The degree of habitat management for the elk herd permissible under wilderness designation would be more restrictive than under the Proposed Action.

## ISSUES CONSIDERED BUT DROPPED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

<u>Cedar Roughs WSA</u>

- Impacts on Air Quality Classification

Concerns are often raised regarding the interaction between wilderness designation and air quality classifications. All wilderness areas will be managed to comply with existing air quality classification standards in

accordance with BLM wilderness management policy. Wilderness designation or nondesignation would not cause the air quality classification to change. Therefore, it is not necessary to analyze this concern in depth.

- Impacts on Water Quality

The issue of how water quality would be affected by wilderness designation or nondesignation in the Cedar Roughs WSA was identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This issue was not selected for analysis in the EIS because the primary influence on water quality in the WSA, vehicular and foot trail access, would not vary sufficiently with or without wilderness designation to affect water quality in the WSA. Other existing or potential activities, such as mineral development, are absent or affect such a small area that their influence on water quality would be negligible.

- Impacts on Endangered Species

Wildlife and vegetation inventories and analysis of the known ranges of plants and animals did not identify any federally listed, threatened, or endangered species in the WSA. Therefore, this concern was dropped from further consideration.

- Impacts on Mineral Development

There are no known mineral deposits within the Cedar Roughs WSA. Development potential for chromite, copper and geothermal resources, is very low. An analysis of the impacts of designation and nondesignation on mineral development would be excessively speculative as none is projected.

- Impacts on Wildlife Other Than Black Bears

An issue dealing with wildlife in general was considered but not included in this EIS because no specific impacts on populations or the habitat of any specific species were identified. Based on the projections of development and increased visitation in the WSA, little or no change in wildlife populations or habitat is anticipated with wilderness designation or nondesignation.

- Impacts on Vegetation Other Than Sargent Cypress

An issue dealing with vegetation in general was considered but dropped because no specific impacts on vegetation communities or individual species were identified. Based on projections of development and increased visitation in the WSA, little or no change in vegetation is anticipated with wilderness designation or nondesignation.

Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA

- Impacts on Air Quality

Concerns are often raised regarding the interaction between wilderness designation and air quality classification. All wilderness areas will be managed to comply with existing air quality classification standards, in accordance with BLM wilderness management policy. Wilderness designation or nondesignation would not cause the air quality classification to change. Therefore, it is not necessary to analyze this concern in depth.

- Impacts on Endangered Species Other Than Bald Eagles

Wildlife and vegetation inventories and analysis of the known ranges of plants and animals did not identify any federally listed threatened or endangered species (other than bald eagles) in the WSA. Therefore, it is not necessary to analyze this concern in depth.

- Impacts on Wildlife Other Than Tule Elk and Endangered Species

An issue dealing with wildlife in general was considered but not included in this EIS because no significant impacts on populations or the habitat of any specific species were identified. Based on the projections of development in the WSA, little or no change in wildlife populations or habitat is anticipated with wilderness designation or nondesignation.

- Impacts on the Regional Economy

Mineral Resources are the only resources in the WSA with economic value that could possibly be of regional significance. Evaluation has determined that the resources are not large. To the extent the values involved can be estimated, they will be shown under the "Impacts on Gold and Mercury Mining Development" issue.

- Impacts on ORV Use Levels

This concern is covered under the issue titled "Impacts on Hunting and Fishing Use Levels" (see page 5). There is virtually no ORV use within the WSA other than for hunting and fishing access.

- Impacts on Grazing Use Levels

There are four grazing leases involving a total of 619 animal unit months (AUMs) of forage on the WSA. The issue of grazing was considered but dropped from detailed analysis because, in accordance with BLM's wilderness management policy, the continued use of wilderness areas for livestock operations can be maintained at historic levels. Increases in livestock use levels that would adversely affect wilderness values or permitting of new grazing leases in areas previously unleased will not be permitted.

- Impacts on Hydroelectric Projects

This was a potential issue because the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (YCFC&WCD) had proposed a second hydroelectric project on Cache Creek, which included a dam that would have flooded a small part of the WSA. However, as a result of consultation with the YCFC&WCD if has been determined that plans for this project have been dropped because of declining energy rates and the indeterminate waiting period of PG&E to accept additional electricity from local suppliers.

- Impacts on Vegetation

An issue dealing with vegetation in general was considered but dropped because, based on projections of development in the WSA, little or no change in vegetation is anticipated with wilderness designation or non-designation. Note, however, that vegetation is discussed under the issues involving bald eagle and tule elk habitat.

- Impacts on Cultural Resources

Important cultural resources, including village sites, exist in the area being considered for wilderness and cultural resources have been mentioned as a concern by the public. However, they will be protected equally by access restrictions under each alternative. Therefore, they will not be analyzed in Chapter 4.

## SELECTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

Cedar Roughs WSA (5,597 acres)

Through the scoping process, the following Proposed Action and alternative were selected for analysis:

Proposed Action (No Wilderness/No Action)
The entire area would remain both a Research Natural Area and an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

All Wilderness Alternative
The entire WSA would be designated wilderness.

All 5,597 acres of public lands in the Cedar Roughs WSA are recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness. These lands will be managed as a Research Natural Area (RNA) and also as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Authority for these designations is provided by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act for areas where significant values warrant special management attention. The management goal would be protection of the vegetative community for scientific and educational purposes. This administrative protection and management direction would allow discretionary actions such as certain research activities and associated limited vehicular access, as long as they enhance or maintain the objectives of natural area designation. In the planning process, the following facts were considered in arriving at the Proposed Action: 1) the wilderness

values of the area are judged not to be outstanding and 2) the values that the area has can be protected satisfactorily under multiple use and the ACEC and RNA designations.

There have been no significant situational changes since the draft EIS was released which may affect the wilderness suitability of the Cedar Roughs WSA.

Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA (33,582 acres)

Through the scoping process, the following Proposed Action and alternatives were selected for analysis:

Proposed Action (No Wilderness/No Action)
No land in the WSA would be designated wilderness. However, 11,206 acres would remain a Research Natural Area (RNA) and 7,500 acres (about 1,000 of which overlaps the RNA and 1,500 of which extends beyond the boundary of the WSA) would remain an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

All Wilderness Alternative
35,108 acres would be designated wilderness. This would include the 33,582-acre WSA studied under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) plus 1,526 acres of recently acquired land studied under Section 202 of FLPMA.

Partial Wilderness Alternative
30,608 acres would be designated wilderness. This would include 29,082 acres of the WSA which were studied under Section 603 of FLPMA, and 1,526 acres of recently acquired land studied under Section 202. 4,500 acres of the WSA would not be designated wilderness but would be managed for multiple use.

The Proposed Action is to continue to manage the entire WSA and adjacent public lands under multiple use with special resource protection for the ACEC and RNA. In the planning process, the following facts were considered in arriving at the Proposed Action: (1) the wilderness characteristics of the area are not outstanding, (2) if additional energy and non-energy mineral development were to take place, wilderness characteristics would be further degraded, and (3) wildlife management and recreation management objectives can be better achieved without the restrictions that wilderness designation would bring. In many locations throughout the WSA there is evidence of past and present human activity. This is particularly evident when the area is viewed from the air.

There have been several situational changes since the draft EIS for Rocky Creek/Cache Creek was released. A recent land acquisition added 1,526 acres of critical bald eagle and tule elk habitat to the public lands (see Map 3). This is the Wilson Valley area which now consolidates the public lands and eliminates conflicts associated with non-Federal lands within and adjacent to the WSA boundary. Approximately five river miles were added to the public lands along Cache Creek, more than doubling what was in Federal ownership before this exchange. The State of California

(Wildlife Conservation Board) acquired an additional 840 acres and 2 river miles in this exchange. Ownership between the State and Federal government on Cache Creek now includes 16 to 20 river miles within the WSA.

Other issues involving energy and mineral resources have changed recently. Yolo County has dropped their plans for a hydroelectric plant in the peninsula area of Cache Creek. There are now no plans for new hydroelectric development anywhere within the WSA.

The majority of the WSA has oil and gas lease applications. A few leases exist, but there has been no work done to date. The potential for any economically feasible quantities of oil and gas is minimal.

The Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA contains deposits or occurrences of mercury, gold, asbestos, placer chromite, gemstones, magnesite, and sand and gravel. There has been production of mercury from within the area and there is potential for production of gold. There has been recent development work at Homestake Mining Company's gold mine nearby. This major gold deposit may extend into the WSA. Claims have been staked in the WSA by Homestake and Storm King to explore for a possible extension of the gold mineralization at Knoxville.

There is potential for the production of electrical energy from geothermal sources at Wilbur Springs outside of the WSA. The geothermal reservoir may extend into the WSA.

## ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT DROPPED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

### Cedar Roughs WSA

A Partial Wilderness Alternative was considered but dropped because the compactness and continuity of the WSA offers no opportunities to delete portions because of manageability or wilderness value variations. There are no projected or historic resource demands that might lead to a determination that part of the WSA was nonsuitable.

### Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA

Several additional Partial Wilderness Alternatives, including the one analyzed in the draft EIS, were considered but dropped because the alternatives selected for analysis represent a reasonable range and include all potential impacts to the area.

# Chapter 2

# Proposed Actions & Alternatives

## CHAPTER 2

## PROPOSED ACTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

Since the pattern of future actions within the WSAs cannot be predicted with certainty, we have made projections of management actions to allow the analysis of impacts under the Proposed Action and alternatives. These projections are the basis of the impacts identified in this EIS. They represent reasonably feasible patterns of activities which could occur under the alternatives analyzed. This document does not constitute a management plan. BLM is not necessarily committed to the management actions listed and is not restricted from implementing additional actions which are not listed.

### CEDAR ROUGHS WSA
### (CA-050-331)

PROPOSED ACTION (NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION)

All 5,597 acres of public lands in the Cedar Roughs WSA are recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation (see Map 2). These lands would be managed as a Research Natural Area (RNA) in accordance with the existing Management Framework Plan. This area has also been designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Authority for this designation is provided by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act for areas where significant values warrant special management attention. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Policy and Procedures Guidelines (BLM 1980) contains detailed information on ACEC status. The management goal would be protection of the vegetation community for scientific and educational purposes. The administrative protection and management direction for preservation would allow discretionary actions such as prescribed burning and limited vehicular access, as long as they enhance or maintain the objectives of natural area designation.

Vegetation Management Actions

None existing or projected.

Wildlife Management Actions

1. Three seeps/springs above Hardin Creek will have spring boxes installed. Total ground disturbance will be less than 0.25 acre.

2. Two flying saucer type guzzlers will be installed on ridge top locations near the boundary of the cypress and chaparral habitat types shown on Map 6. Total ground disturbance will be less than 0.25 acre.

Water Quality Management Actions

None existing or projected.

Recreational Use Management Actions

3. In the ACEC and RNA management plans, vehicle access would be restricted to research purposes authorized by special permit (necessary easements would be obtained) and to those who own or have permission to cross adjacent private property. No public easements for vehicle access would be obtained. Any public vehicle access not associated with authorized research activities would continue to be at the discretion of local landowners. In the past, local landowners have not allowed public vehicle access across their lands to the WSA. Estimated number of vehicle entries per year in 1990:

| | |
|---|---|
| by researchers | 75 |
| by locals | 200 |

4. Foot trail access from the Federal lands adjacent to the northwest corner of the WSA will be established. This will involve 5 miles of new trail (4.5 within the WSA), and one improved trailhead (0.5 acre) outside the northwest corner of the WSA.

Fire Management Actions

5. Fire suppression would be practiced in the Cedar Roughs WSA until a fire management plan is completed. However, the use of heavy equipment would be severely restricted in areas where property or human life is not an issue. Natural firebreaks and back firing would be used to the greatest extent possible, and especially utilized on the area's periphery to assure containment of wildfires.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

All 5,597 acres of public land in the Cedar Roughs WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (see Map 2). The fire and jeep trails in the WSA would be closed to vehicular use and used as foot trails. Discretionary management actions would be permitted only to preserve the wilderness values. Public access would be provided by trails.

Vegetation Management Actions

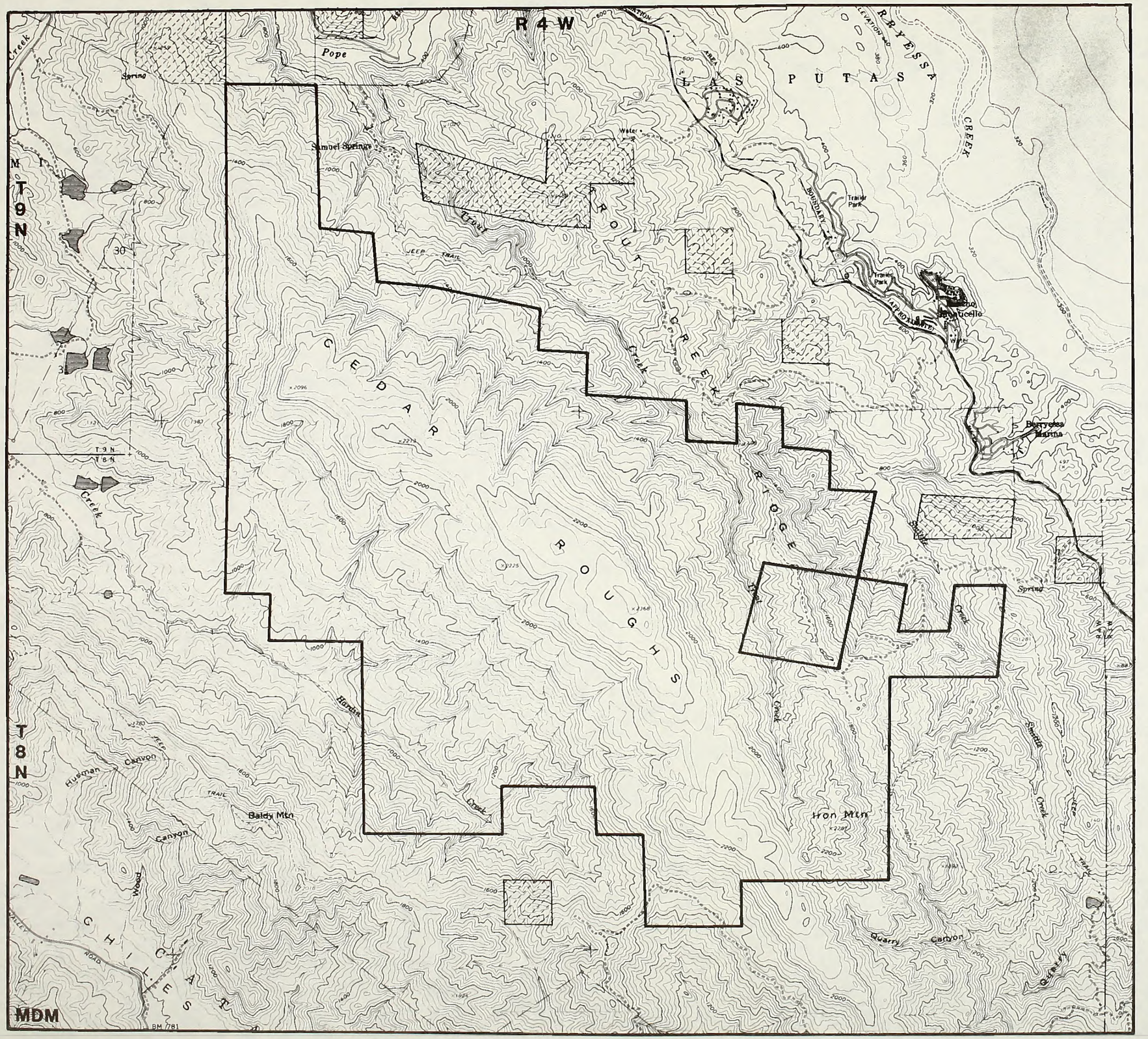
None projected.

Wildlife Management Actions

1. Same as Management Action 1 for the Proposed Action (see page 13).

Water Quality Management Actions

2. All jeep trails would be closed to vehicular use. This includes 5 miles of jeep trails and 3 miles of ways.




# MAP 2

# CEDAR ROUGHS

## WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

## PROPOSED ACTION
(No Wilderness/No Action)

WSA Boundary

BLM Land Outside WSA

Under the PROPOSED ACTION the entire WSA is recommended nonsuitable.

Under the ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE the entire area is recommended suitable.

The boundaries of the existing ACEC and RNA correspond exactly with the WSA.

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Recreational Use Management Actions

3. Same as Management Action 2 (see page 14).

4. Same as Management Action 4 for the Proposed Action (see paragraph 2, page 14).

Fire Management Actions

5. Under the All Wilderness Alternative, a fire management plan would be written for the WSA. It would become an addendum to the Wilderness Management Plan. Fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and ground crews would be used for fire control. Cross-country vehicle travel would be permitted only when the terrain and soil conditions would permit such travel without damage to vegetative cover and only with the approval of the District Manager. Heavy equipment such as tracked vehicles and dozers would not be permitted except to prevent loss of human life or to protect private or high-value property. Existing firebreaks throughout the WSA would no longer be maintained but allowed to return to their natural state.

## ROCKY CREEK-CACHE CREEK WSA
## (CA-050-317)

PROPOSED ACTION (NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION)

All 33,582 acres of public land in the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA is recommended as nonsuitable (see Map 3). Nearly 16,000 acres of the area has also been designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (to protect the unique resource values found along the creek corridor) and a Research Natural Area (to set aside an area of pristine California chaparral for research activities). A corridor extending one-half mile on either side of Cache Creek (the ACEC) is designed to protect the recreational and scenic values of this whitewater stretch of the creek. Within the corridor, surface disturbance and structures would be prohibited or restricted subject to valid existing rights. Unobtrusive, small-scale developments and activities would be permitted. This designation would also help protect the quality of the surrounding watersheds and act as a buffer to resource production occurring throughout other portions of the WSA. This proposal also responds to an opportunity to preserve a cross section of north coast California chaparral plant communities in a largely pristine condition (the Northern California Chaparral Research Natural Area). This natural area contributes to maintenance of biological diversity and offers opportunities for scientific study. The ACEC and RNA became effective November 21, 1984, with approval of the Clear Lake Resource Area Management Framework Plan. The remainder of the WSA would be subject to management practices emphasizing resource production, particularly minerals and grazing.

Vegetation Management Actions

1. Prescribed burning of brush would be implemented for habitat improvement and fuels hazard reduction. This would amount to approximately 600 acres (burned) per year.

2. Brush conversions would be implemented (about 20 acres per year) in suitable portions of the area prescribed burned as per Management Action 1, above. Perennial grasses and clovers will be seeded in these areas. A half mile buffer would be maintained from Cache Creek and no reseeding will be implemented in the RNA.

Wildlife Management Actions

3. Supplemental seeding of existing native grasses and clovers for the tule elk would be implemented by drilling and irrigation in the lower end of Wilson Valley. Fifteen acres would be seeded each year and reseeding would take place on a seven-year rotation.

Water Quality Management Actions

4. Erosion problems caused by the mercury mine on Rocky Creek would be mitigated by the following stipulations:

   1. Maintain a buffer zone of 50 feet from the pit to the creek.
   2. Construct about 200 yards of riprap barrier to prevent continued sloughing of the bank.

Recreational Use Management Actions

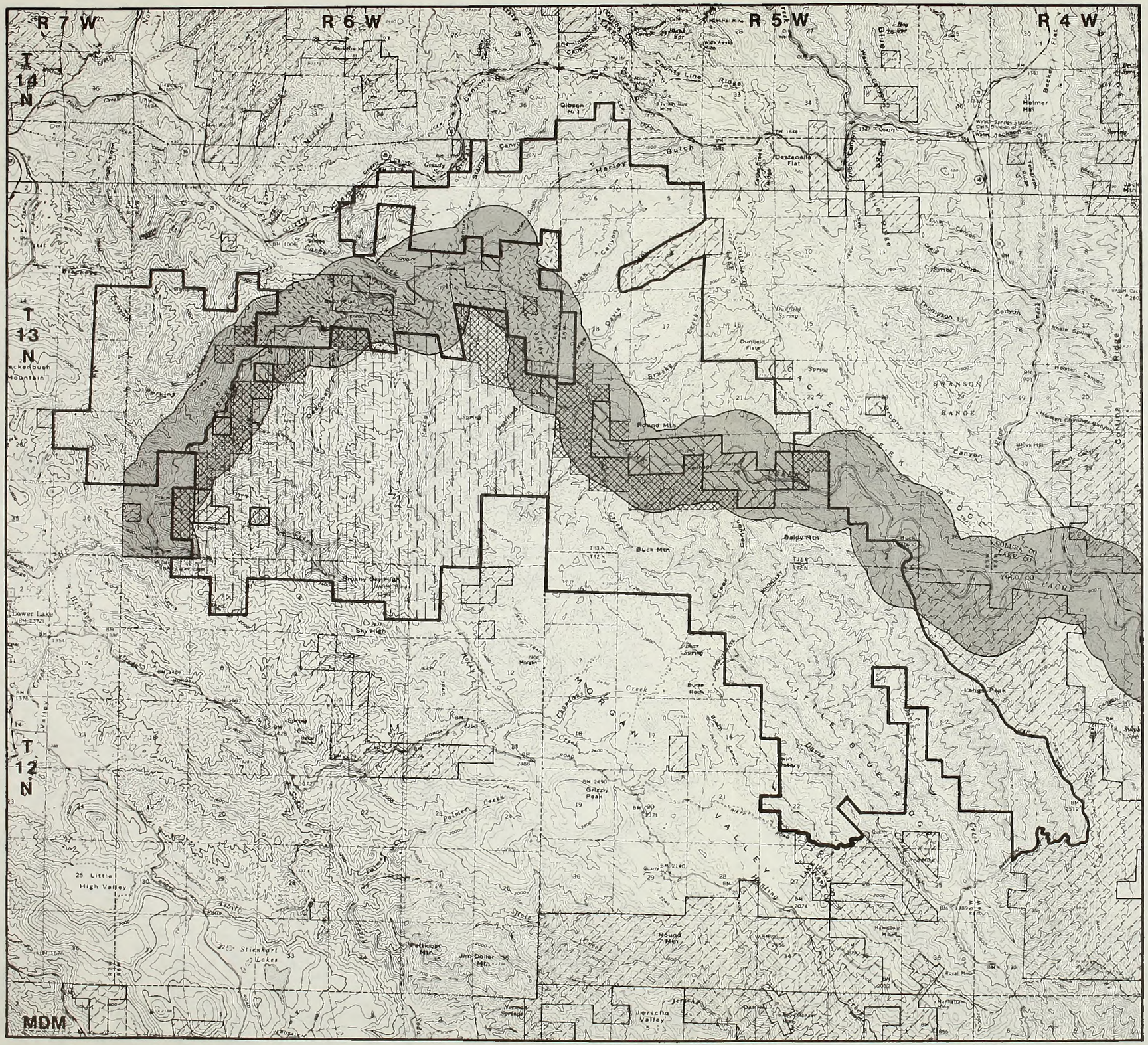
5. To improve access for whitewater boaters a 1.5-mile road (1 mile improved, 0.5 mile new) would be constructed from where Highway 20 crosses the North Fork of Cache Creek to the WSA boundary (a distance of 1.25 miles) and from there 0.25 mile south into the WSA. The necessary easements will be obtained.

6. The public lands from the confluence of North Fork and Main Fork of Cache Creek to the southeastern edge of Wilson Valley would be closed to vehicles for a distance of 0.5 mile on either side of Cache Creek due to sensitive wildlife and archaeological values.

7. Ten miles of new horse/hiking trails would be constructed along the river corridor.

Energy Development Management Actions

8. The five existing geothermal lease applications and six existing oil and gas leases in the WSA would be allowed to be developed with appropriate stipulations. Exploration on these and any additional leases is not expected to exceed five wells or 10 acres total land disturbance including 1 mile of access roads. No geothermal or oil and gas production is anticipated.




# MAP 3

# ROCKY CREEK / CACHE CREEK

## WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

## PROPOSED ACTION
(No Wilderness / No Action)

- WSA Boundary
- Patented Land within WSA
- BLM Land outside WSA
- Land Recently Acquired by BLM
- State Lands Commission Land
- Wildlife Conservation Board Land (State)
- Cache Creek ACEC
- Northern California Chaparral RNA
- Water Power Withdrawal

The entire WSA is recommended nonsuitable for wilderness.

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Nonenergy Mineral Resource Development Management Actions

9. Same as Management Action 4 (see page 18).

10. Development of gold claims would be allowed and would amount to 200 acres of surface disturbance (including open pits, rock crushing areas, waste storage and buildings) and construction of 10 miles of road over the next 20 years.

Land Acquisitions/Exchange Management Actions

11. Private inholdings fronting Cache Creek or adjacent to the river corridor would be acquired through direct land exchange or purchased with available funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) or the Trust for Public Lands (TPL). These inholdings (from Peachtree Crossing to Davis Creek) total approximately 2,300 acres.

12. State of California inholdings managed by the State Lands Commission would be acquired. These lands total approximately 720 acres.

Grazing Management Actions

13. Grazing leases within the WSA would be allowed to continue at existing levels. No increase in AUMs is projected.

14. No grazing would be allowed in Wilson Valley or on other lands acquired within the WSA due to sensitive wildlife and archaeological values. The management plan for the RNA states that grazing will not be allowed in the RNA. This covers the majority of the recently acquired lands.

Fire Management Actions

15. Until a fire management plan is completed for the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA fire suppression would be practiced. This plan will place restrictions on the use of any heavy equipment. Property and human life will be safeguarded under any circumstances.

    The use of heavy equipment will be severely restricted in areas where property or human life is not at issue, or where there is no significant existing surface disturbance. Prescribed burning, natural firebreaks, and back firing will be used to the greatest extent possible, and especially utilized on the area's periphery to assure containment of wildfires.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Under the All Wilderness alternative, all 35,108 acres of public land would be designated as wilderness (see Map 4).

Numerous mining claims surround commercial finds of gold to the south of the WSA and extend into the central portion of the WSA. Valid rights existing at the time of designation would be allowed to develop subject to

the limitations imposed under the Wilderness Act and Wilderness Management Policy. Existing oil and gas leases, if not developed, would not be renewed as they expire. Grazing, would continue at present levels as provided for in the wilderness management guidelines.

Two changes would be made to the boundary established during the WSA inventory. Two hundred acres of public land, inadvertently eliminated during the inventory phase, would be added along Cache Creek since the area meets the wilderness requirements for naturalness and offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Also, the recently acquired public lands along Cache Creek, primarily in Wilson Valley and the Peninsula area, add approximately 1,500 acres to the area under consideration for wilderness and increase its manageability.

Vegetation Management Actions

1. Prescribed burning would be limited to those methods which involve no surface disturbances. Bulldozers would not be used. The preferred methods are the helitorch and ground crews with drip torches. Five hundred acres per year would be burned (500 acres blackened) in the area designated wilderness.

Wildlife Management Actions

2. Supplemental seeding of existing native grasses and clovers for the tule elk would be implemented by an aerial broadcast in the lower end of Wilson Valley. Fifteen acres would be seeded each year and reseeding would take place on a seven-year rotation.

Water Quality Management Actions

3. The entire wilderness area will be closed to vehicle access except that associated with valid existing rights. This would involve the closure of 45 miles of ways.

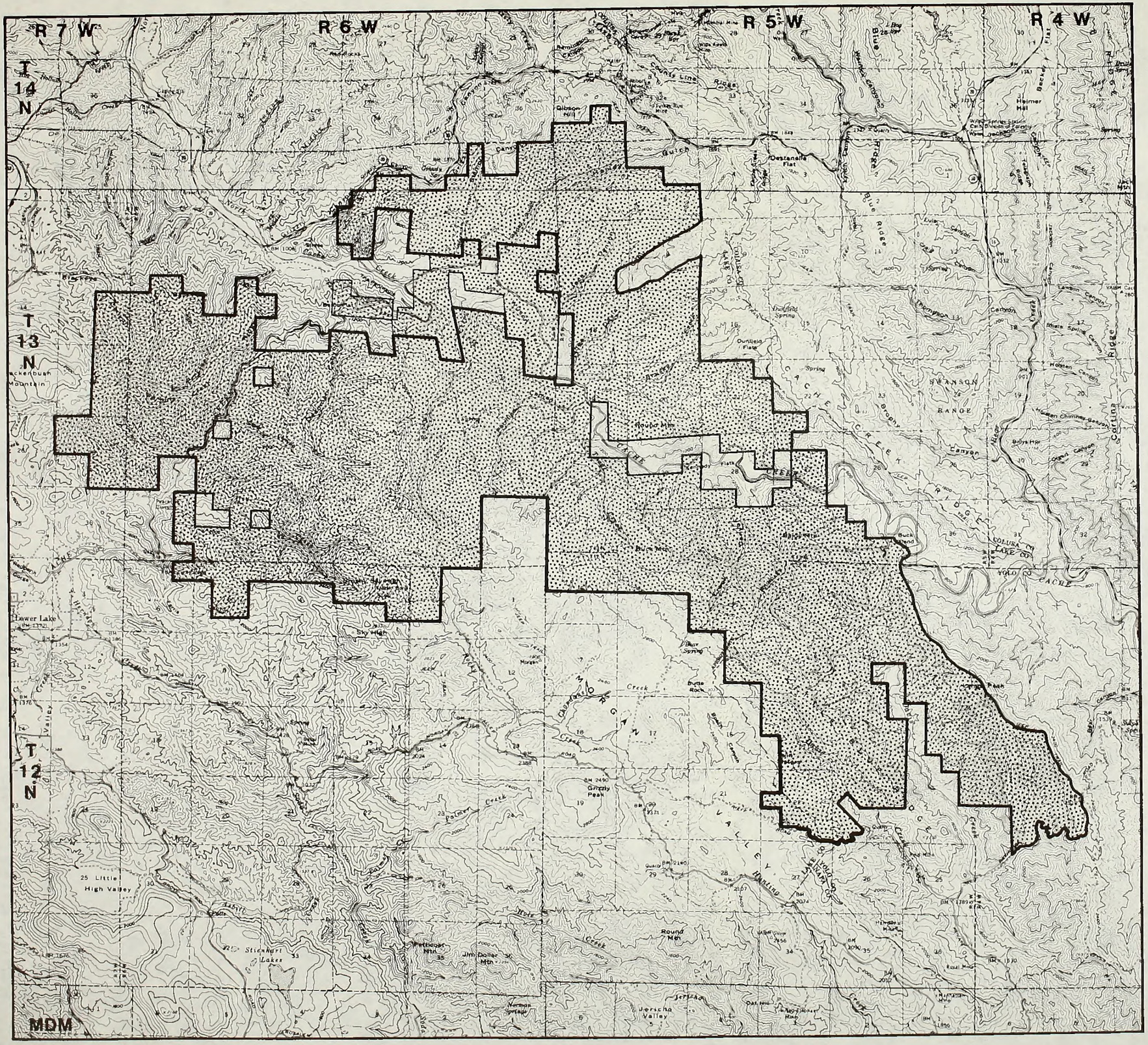
4. Erosion problems caused by the mercury mine on Rocky Creek will be mitigated by the following stipulations applicable to this mining activity: 1) maintain a buffer zone of 50 feet from the pit to the creek, and 2) construct a riprap barrier to protect the creek. Fifty vehicle miles of travel will occur per year within the area. There would be no more disturbance outside of the 40 acres that is already disturbed.

Recreational Use Management Actions

5. Ten miles of new horse/hiking trails would be constructed along the river corridor.

6. Same as Management Action 3, above.

Alternatives




# MAP 4

# ROCKY CREEK / CACHE CREEK

## WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

## ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

WSA Boundary

Land Recommended Suitable for Wilderness Designation

See map 3 for details of land ownership status.

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7. To improve access for whitewater boaters a 1.25-mile road (1 mile improved, 0.25 mile new) would be constructed from where Highway 20 crosses the North Fork of Cache Creek to the WSA boundary. From there a 0.25-mile trail would be constructed heading south into the wilderness area. The necessary easements would be obtained.

8. A system of permitting commercial float trips would be established. Float trips would be prohibited from October 15 to June 15. From June 16 to October 14, a maximum of 20 people per day would be allowed to take float trips putting in at the access point near Highway 20.

Energy Development Actions

9. No additional oil and gas leases and no geothermal leases would be issued. Activity on the six existing oil and gas leases would be anticipated to consist of three exploratory wells (5 acres total disturbance including 3 miles of road) but no commercial production. No geothermal exploration or production is anticipated.

Nonenergy Mineral Resource Development Management Actions

10. Same as Management Action 4.

11. Same as Management Action 10 for the Proposed Action, except that there would be only 100 acres of disturbance and only 5 miles of new road over the next 20 years because of the greater degree of restriction on development activities under the All Wilderness Alternative.

Land Acquisition/Exchange Management Actions

12. Same as Management Action 11 for the Proposed Action (see page 21).

13. Same as Management Action 12 for the Proposed Action (see page 21).

Grazing Management Actions

14. Same as Management Action 13 for the Proposed Action (see page 21).

15. Same as Management Action 14 for the Proposed Action (see page 21), except that the RNA would be dropped--it would be part of the Wilderness Area.

Fire Management Actions

16. Under the All Wilderness Alternative, a fire management plan would be written for the WSA. It would become an addendum to the Wilderness Management Plan. Fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and ground crews would be used for fire control. Cross-country vehicle travel would be permitted only when the terrain and soil conditions would permit such travel without damage to vegetative cover and only with the approval of the District Manager. Heavy equipment such as tracked vehicles and dozers would not be permitted except to prevent loss of human life or to protect private or high-value property. Existing

firebreaks throughout the WSA would no longer be maintained but allowed to return to their natural state.

## PARTIAL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Approximately 30,608 acres of public land included within or adjacent to the Rocky Creek/Cache Creek WSA is recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (Map 5). The differences in acreage totals between this alternative and the All Wilderness Alternative are as follows: In this alternative, that portion of the WSA between Davis Creek and the Lang's Peak Road (which forms a portion of the eastern boundary of the WSA) would be removed. This is approximately 2,000 acres that would not be recommended as wilderness because the Lang's Peak Road is maintained every year and gets heavy use in the summer by river-runners who camp and put in at Buck Island.

Also, the portion of the WSA north and west of Perkins Creek Ridge would be designated wilderness. A one-half mile buffer from Cache Creek toward Perkins Creek Ridge would remain in the WSA. This would remove the heavily roaded 2,500-acre portion of the ridge from the WSA and still provide protection for Cache Creek.

The acreage breakdown under this alternative is:

| | |
|---|---|
| WSA | 33,582 |
| Perkins Creek Ridge Exclusion | -2,500 |
| Davis Creek Exclusion | -2,000 |
| Recent Land Acquisition | +1,526 |
| | 30,608 |

### Management Actions

The management actions for the Partial Wilderness Alternative are the same as the management actions listed for the All Wilderness Alternative on pages 22 and 25 with the following exceptions:

- Management Action 3 would involve the closure of only 40 miles of ways under Partial Wilderness.

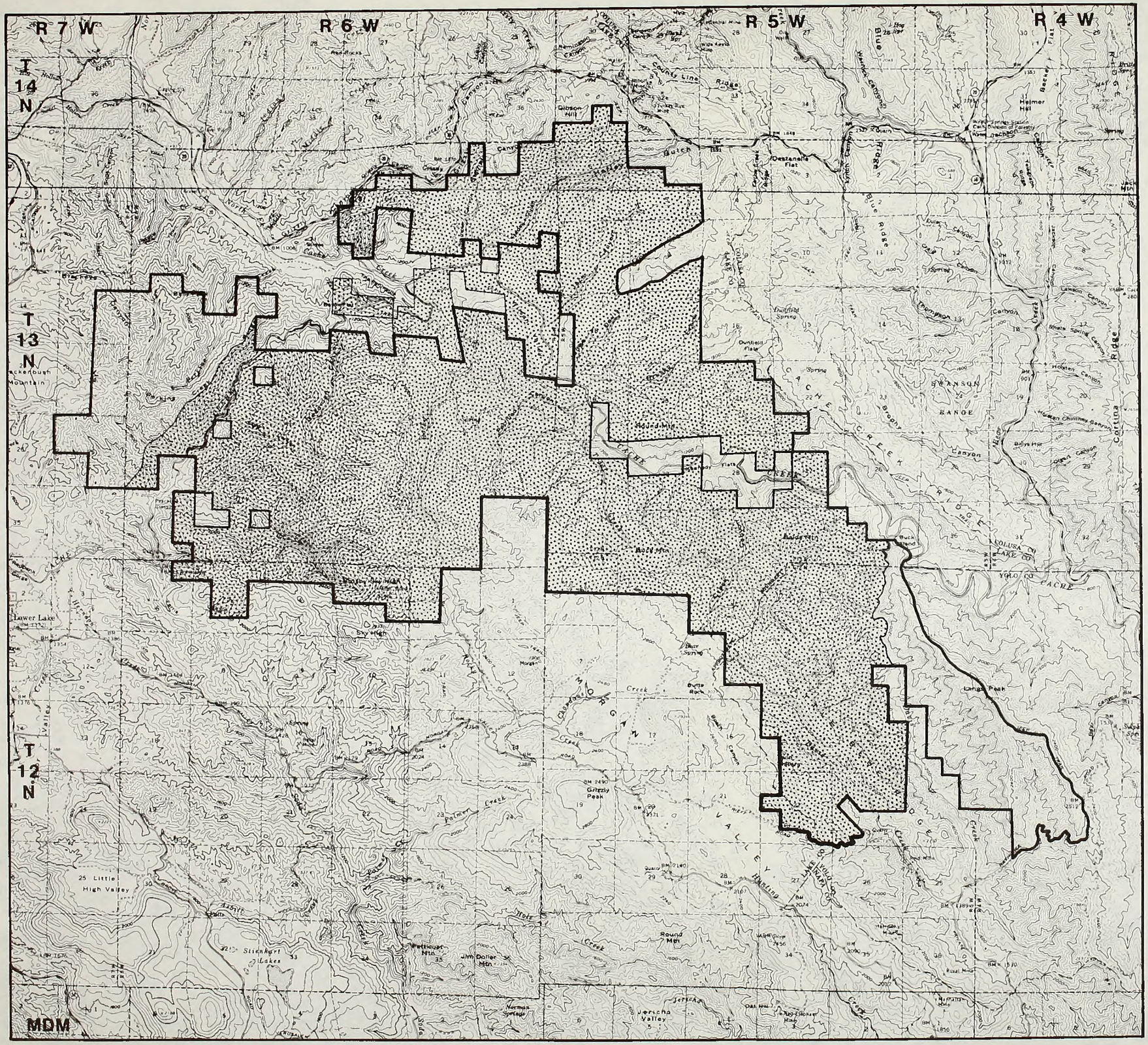
- The acreages involved in Management Action 9 would be less (3 acres total disturbance including 2 miles of road).

- The Fire Management Actions appropriate to a wilderness area (see page 25) would apply only to the 30,608 acres that would be designated wilderness under this alternative. Fire management actions for the remaining 4,500 acres would be the same as those described for the Proposed Action (see MA 15 on page 21).

## SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Tables 1 and 2 provide a comparative summary of the major impacts of the Proposed Action and the alternatives.

Alternatives




# MAP 5

# ROCKY CREEK / CACHE CREEK

## WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

## PARTIAL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

WSA Boundary

Land Recommended Suitable for Wilderness Designation

See map 3 for details of land ownership status.

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Table 1. Comparison of Impacts of the Proposed Action and Alternative for the Cedar Roughs WSA

| Issue-Related | Proposed Action (No Wilderness/No Action-RNA/ACEC Designations Remain) | All Wilderness Alternative |
|---|---|---|
| Wilderness Values | Loss of naturalness and solitude on less than 1 percent of the WSA from the water and access development. The opportunity for primitive recreation would be enhanced by the new foot trail. Losses to the Sargent cypress stand would amount to less than 1 acre and the black bear population would be unchanged. | Naturalness and solitude would be enhanced on about 2 percent of the WSA by the closure and reversion to natural vegetation of 4 miles of jeep trails. Otherwise impacts would be essentially the same as under the Proposed Action. |
| Sargent Cypress | Loss of less than 1 acre of the 2,800-acre Sargent cypress stand. | Slightly less direct loss of the stand than under the Proposed Action (because no research-related access would be constructed) and more secure long-term protection. |
| Black Bears | Offsetting small negative impacts from improved hunter access and small positive impacts from water developments would result in no change in the bear population. | Small positive impacts from water developments and reduced hunting pressure coupled with increased long-term security from wilderness designation could result in a 5 to 10% increase in the black bear population. |
| Recreational Use | 50% increase (to 300 visits per year) in recreational use (hiking and hunting) from the improved foot trail access. | The creation of foot trail access for the general public would be offset by the loss of vehicle access by local landowners, the result being no change in overall recreational use levels. |

Table 2. Comparison of Impacts of the Proposed Action and Alternatives for the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA

| Issue-Related Resources | Proposed Action (No Wilderness/No Action-Continue RNA/ACEC) | All Wilderness Alternative | Partial Wilderness Alternative |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wilderness Values | Naturalness and solitude would be lost in about 3 percent of the WSA primarily from road and trail developments and vegetation manipulations. Opportunities for primitive recreation would be enhanced by improved access. All of the special features (which include the bald eagles, tule elk, the river corridor, archaeological resources along the river, and the RNA) would be enhanced. Overall, wilderness values would be enhanced slightly or provided increased protection, at least in the short term. | The net impact of the management actions would be to enhance wilderness values on about 3 percent of the WSA primarily from the prohibition of vehicular access and the protection and enhancement of special features. In addition, long-term security from unanticipated adverse future actions would be provided. | Same as for All Wilderness Alternative. |
| Water Quality | Although there would be local improvements in water quality from reduced vehicle access and the imposition of mining stipulations there would also be siltation problems caused by vegetation manipulations and access construction, the net result being no change in overall water quality. | Although there would be some negative impacts to water quality from prescribed burning and access and mineral development, overall it would improve moderately due to closure of the area to vehicles, land acquisitions, and the imposition of mining stipulations. | Same as for All Wilderness Alternative. |

| Issue-Related Resources | Proposed Action (No Wilderness/No Action-Continue RNA/ACEC) | All Wilderness Alternative | Partial Wilderness Alternative |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hunting and Fishing Use Levels | The overall impact on hunting and fishing would be to increase use levels about 50 percent to roughly 375 visits per year. The benefits from the new trails and access road, vegetation manipulations, and mining access roads would outweigh the closure of Wilson Valley to vehicles. | Overall, about a 20 percent increase in hunting and fishing use levels to roughly 300 visits per year due primarily to the new access road (outside the area) and trails which would override the negative effect of closure of the area to vehicle access. | Same as for All Wilderness Alternative. |
| Gold and Mercury Mining | Very slight positive net impacts on gold and mercury mining development mainly from land acquisitions and brush removal. These would be partially counterbalanced by stipulations on mercury mining and possible conflicts with energy development. | Although the acquisitions could temporarily open new areas and existing claims could benefit from prescribed burning, overall, impacts would be moderately negative because of increased operating costs and the fact that future claims would not be allowed. | Same as for All Wilderness Alternative. |
| Geothermal & Oil & Gas Development | Slight positive impacts to oil and gas development from the lands acquisition and slight positive impacts to both geothermal and oil and gas development from the proposed vegetation manipulation which would remove brush that would otherwise impede access. | Same as for gold and mercury mining, above, except that geothermal development will not be allowed in the acquired lands. | Same as for All Wilderness Alternative. |

| Issue-Related Resources | Proposed Action (No Wilderness/No Action-Continue RNA/ACEC) | All Wilderness Alternative | Partial Wilderness Alternative |
|---|---|---|---|
| Whitewater Boating | Increase whitewater boating use levels about 20 percent to roughly 300 visits per year primarily from improved access and the new trail along the river corridor. None of the management actions would negatively impact whitewater boating. | Increase in boating use levels about 15 percent to roughly 285 visits per year from wilderness designation because of improved access (despite closure of the area to vehicles) and improved trip quality accomplished through land acquisitions and a permitting system. | Same as for All Wilderness Alternative. |
| Bald Eagles | Slight benefit from the land acquisitions and the closure of Wilson Valley to vehicles. They would be slightly negatively impacted by improved human access and possible harassment. Overall, there would be no net impact. | Moderate beneficial impacts on the eagles, primarily from closure of the area to vehicles. Land acquisition would also help. Access trails would lead to some disturbance, but not enough to override the benefits from closure of the area to vehicles. | Same as for All Wilderness Alternative. |
| Tule Elk Habitat | Great benefit to elk primarily from reduced human disturbance and vegetation manipulations and seedings that would increase the amount of high quality habitat by roughly 20 percent. | Moderate benefit to elk from reduced disturbance and vegetation manipulations that would increase the amount of high quality habitat by roughly 15 percent. | Same as for All Wilderness Alternative. |

# Chapter 3

# Affected Environment

# CHAPTER 3

## AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This chapter briefly describes each WSA and the resources that would be impacted by the proposed actions and alternatives. Descriptions are only as detailed as needed for the reader to understand the effects of implementing the proposed actions and alternatives. Where impacts to resources would be slight or nonexistent, descriptions are brief or are omitted (see page 10 for a discussion of issues considered but dropped from further analysis).

More detailed descriptions of the resources in the study area and of regional socioeconomic conditions appear in the planning documents for the planning area. Copies of these documents may be reviewed in the Ukiah District Office, Ukiah, California.

### CEDAR ROUGHS WSA
### (CA-050-331)

This 5,597-acre WSA lies about 2 miles west of Lake Berryessa, forming the westward boundary of that basin. The landform is generally a rounded ridgeline extending northwest to southeast. Iron Mountain rises to over 2,200 feet in the southern portion of the study area. Trout Creek Ridge parallels Cedar Roughs to the east as an intervening ridge between the WSA and Lake Berryessa. There are only two distinct perennial stream drainages, Hardin Creek to the west and Trout Creek to the east. North of Cedar Roughs is Pope Canyon, where Trout Creek converges with Pope Creek. The dominant feature is the Sargent cypress stand (Photo 1) which comprises about 50% of the WSA, most of the remainder being either mixed chaparral or chamise chaparral. Black bear are the most noteworthy wildlife species present.

#### WILDERNESS VALUES

The BLM's Intensive Inventory determined that this WSA met the minimal standards for naturalness. Naturalness for a wilderness study area means that the WSA "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable." (Wilderness Act of 1964) The 4 miles of old jeep trails are the only evident intrusions that reduce naturalness.

The Intensive inventory also determined that the WSA had the minimum requirements for outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The dense vegetation on Cedar Roughs makes opportunities to find seclusion very good, especially if a minimal trail network were provided to disperse visitors. At present, movement through the area is limited by the dense nature of the vegetation. Sights and sounds from the Lake Berryessa area (boats, motor vehicles, etc.) might intrude occasionally, but, at 2 to 3 miles, would have only slight impacts.

Photo 1. Sargent cypress stand in the Cedar Roughs WSA

There are few opportunities for primitive and unconfined forms of recreation on Cedar Roughs. The uniform vegetation cover and mild topography do not offer interest or challenge for most users. Sport wildlife populations are relatively low, and there are no lakes and streams for fishing or boating. The unique cypress stand is of botanical interest, but only to a relative few.

The cedar Roughs WSA contains only two special features: the Sargent cypress stand and a resident black bear population. However, the black bear population is not significant enough to be noticeable by most visitors to the area.

VEGETATION

The harsh growing conditions of the ultramafic substrate in this area have caused the development of a unique vegetative cover (Photo 1 and Map 6). This cover is dominated by Sargent cypress (Cupressus sargentii). Other species include whiteleaf manzanita, leather oak, and Digger pine. Although Sargent cypress is common in California, the stand on Cedar Roughs is unique both in character and expanse. It is noteworthy because of its size (over 3,000 acres, about 2,800 of which are within the WSA) and the integrity of the species. It represents an important reserve of relatively pure genetic material because it exhibits no sign of hybridization with McNab cypress, which is typical in other California cypress communities. Small areas of serpentine chaparral and oak woodland are present, and occasional seeps and springs occur on the periphery of the cypress stand.

No federally listed threatened or endangered plants occur within the WSA.

WILDLIFE

Cedar Roughs supports a variety of common terrestrial wildlife species. The only unique aspect of the area is that it is the only known area in Napa County where black bears breed (Dr. Donald Hemphill, personal communication, March 1986). The population is believed to be stable, but not large -probably less than 10 bears use part of the WSA. Bear/human encounters are not common in the WSA. Frequent reports of bears damaging beehives on the surrounding private lands have been reported. Bear hunting is legal during a short season in the fall; however, there are no data on either hunting effort or success for this area. Both are assumed to be low. However, it has been reported that one of the major private landowners adjacent to the WSA who leases his property to a hunting club does not allow bears to be taken.

Fisheries habitat is contained in 1.5 miles of Trout Creek and 0.75 mile of Hardin Creek. Rainbow trout are present in both streams, and western roach is believed to occur in Hardin Creek. Both streams are too limited in size to provide significant fishery values. No threatened or endangered animal species occur in the WSA. The endangered American Peregrine Falcon may occasionally forage in some portions of the WSA.

RECREATIONAL USE

Recreation is very limited (roughly 150 visits per year) because of few recreation resources and a lack of access. A hunting club has access on the southeast side and uses the Federal land. There are approximately 4 miles of jeep trails within the 5,597 acres of public land that comprise this study area. The Trout Creek Trail is 2½ miles long and is located along the extreme eastern edge of the WSA. The trail generally follows Trout Creek Ridge to Iron Mountain. Access to the trail is via private land, with the majority of use and some maintenance provided by a private hunting club. The Samuel Springs Trail and Mystery Trail penetrate the northern portion of Cedar Roughs. Again, access is from adjacent private lands with limited use. Both of these trails are narrow with no maintenance provided.

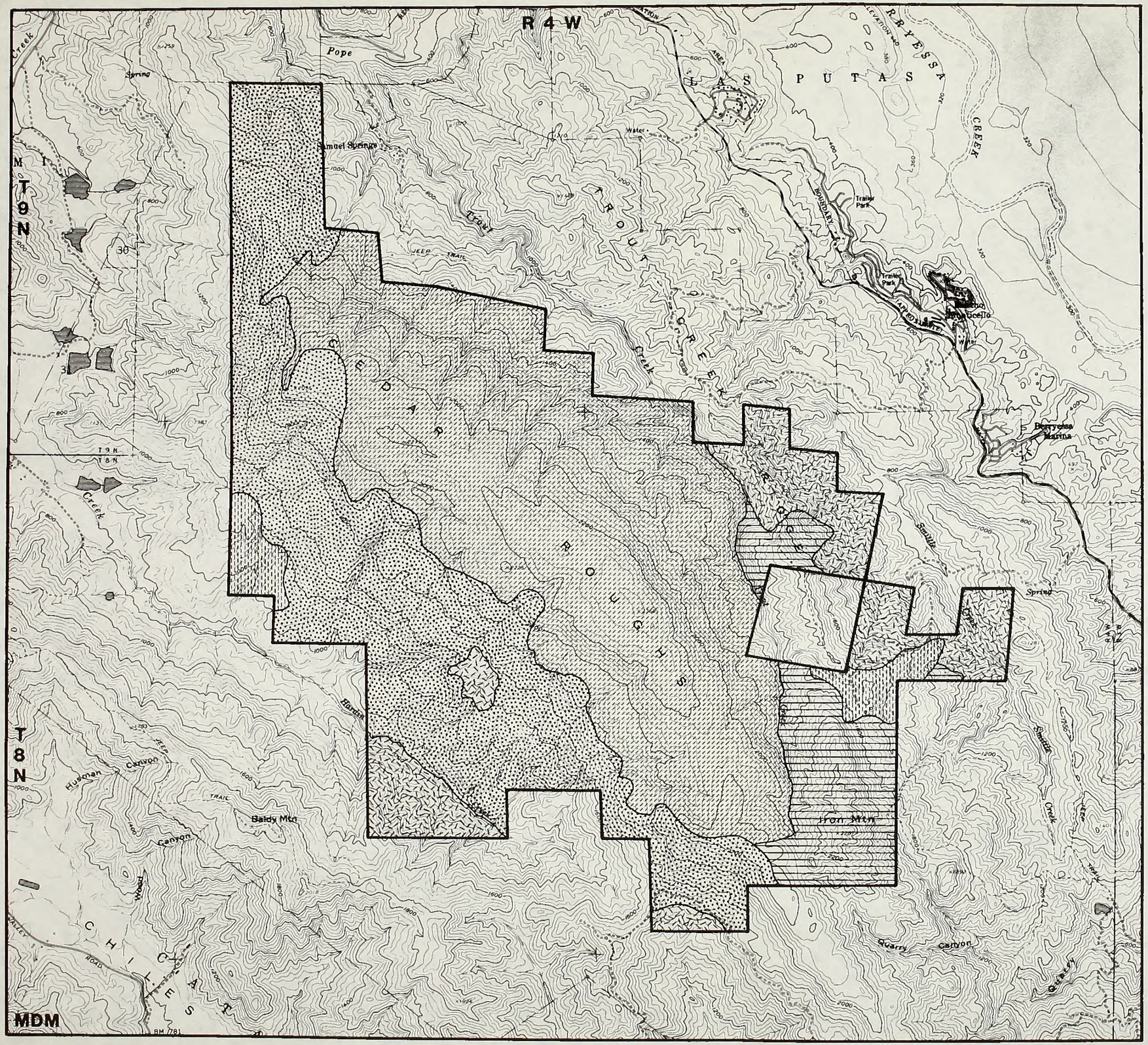
The visible character of the Cedar Roughs WSA is generally one of a natural landscape. Viewing within the WSA is limited due to the dense nature of the vegetation. Distant vistas to the east offer views of Lake Berryessa and Rocky Ridge, and isolated views of the recreation developments along the west shoreline of the lake can be seen occasionally. Views to the west include the oak-grasslands and vineyards of Chiles Valley.

## ROCKY CREEK-CACHE CREEK WSA
## (CA-050-317)

This 33,582-acre WSA is about 4 miles east of Clear Lake. The prominent feature of the WSA is Cache Creek, which runs in a west to east direction and forms a rugged, steep-sided canyon through most of the study area. The steep canyon walls occasionally open to broad, grassy openings with scattered valley oaks, such as in Wilson Valley or Kennedy Flats (Photo 2). Numerous steep side drainages also meet along Cache Creek, including Trout Creek and Rocky Creek. The remainder of the WSA is dominated by rolling, chaparral-covered hills. Brushy Sky High, Baldy Mountain, and Lang's Peak form the summits of the area and reach elevations as high as 3,196 feet. Two important wildlife species are the Bald Eagles which winter in significant numbers along Cache Creek and the tule elk herd which has been resident since being reintroduced into the area in 1922.

Over 90 percent of the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA is included under a cooperative wildlife withdrawal. These lands have been designated as the Clear Lake National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area. This withdrawal was established by Public Land Order 2693, dated June 7, 1962, in three units. The lands were withdrawn subject to valid existing rights from application under the nonmineral public land laws and from disposition under the Homestead, Desert Land, and Scrip Selection Laws. The lands are, and have always been, open to mining and mineral leasing under the applicable Federal laws. The major objectives of the management plan for this withdrawal are to obtain and develop public access, monitor range condition and game populations, and develop and improve wildlife habitat. This management plan was a cooperative effort between BLM and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Environment




# MAP 6

# CEDAR ROUGHS

## WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

## VEGETATION

- WSA Boundary
- Oak Woodland / Savanna
- Sargent Cypress
- Chamise Chaparral
- Mixed Chaparral
- Grassland

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Photo 2. Cache Creek

Photo 3. Tule elk habitat manipulations adjacent to the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA

WILDERNESS VALUES

The BLM's Intensive Inventory determined that this WSA met the minimal standards for naturalness. Naturalness for a wilderness study area means that the WSA "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable." (Wilderness Act of 1964) The above statement notwithstanding, an aerial view of the WSA does reveal a number of areas where man's imprints are noticeable.

During the summer of 1981, two wildfires burned approximately 15,000 acres of the WSA. The Grizzly Canyon Fire (to the north along Highway 20) burned almost 2,000 acres of the study area and resulted in a new 30-foot-wide firebreak above Stemple Canyon. To the south, the Lang's Peak Fire burned through nearly 13,000 acres of the WSA. Over 2½ miles of new 30-foot firebreaks were constructed into the study area.

Also, just outside the northern boundary of the WSA are tule elk habitat developments in the form of brush conversions to grass, two small reservoirs, and associated roads. The actual development area of about 400 acres was not included within the WSA during the Intensive Inventory, and because the area is surrounded on three sides by the WSA, the visual impact from the WSA is substantial (Photo 3).

Man's imprints are noticeable in the Perkins Creek area where grazing lease developments have led to vegetation conversions, development of roads, gates, and cattleguards. ORV use and target shooting are quite common here. Additionally, the westernmost portion of the WSA is immediately adjacent to a county sanitary landfill. Littering of this portion of the WSA is a serious problem. These features detract from the appearance of naturalness. An old mercury mine on Rocky Creek is evidence of man's use, but the impact is small and the site has some historical interest. Some clean-up work at the camp and mine site will be required under BLM's Interim Management Policy for WSAs.

The Intensive Inventory also determined that the WSA had the minimum requirements for outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The size, configuration, mixed vegetation patterns, and broken topography all promote opportunities for finding seclusion and solitude in the WSA. Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are enhanced by Cache Creek, which provides excellent boating opportunities in a scenic setting. There are also fishing opportunities (primarily catfish) along suitable stretches of Cache Creek. The back-country outside the river canyon offers deer and small game hunting although access is limited.

There are five important special features within the WSA. These are: 1) the large winter concentration of Bald Eagles (50-70 eagles) along Cache Creek (it is significant that opportunities to see these birds are just two to three hours away from residents of the San Francisco Bay area); 2) opportunities for whitewater boating found within the river corridor (the Cache Creek ACEC); 3) the tule elk herd; 4) archaeological sites along the river corridor; and 5) the large block of undisturbed vegetation found within the Northern California Chaparral Research Natural Area (RNA).

Environment

## VEGETATION

The Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA encompasses large areas of undisturbed typical coast range vegetation types (Map 7). These include chamise, chaparral, mixed chaparral, serpentine chaparral, and oak woodland/savannah. Such areas are rapidly decreasing as development pressures spread into the California chaparral provinces. The area, therefore, has special value for its undisturbed "typical" landscape. Because of these values, 11,206 acres within the WSA have been designated the Northern California Chaparral Research Natural Area (see Map 3) to encourage their proper utilization and protection.

Numerous isolated serpentine barrens, which are often associated with rare plant species, are also located in the WSA. The north-trending drainages in the Rocky Creek vicinity have several groves of Sargent cypress (Cupressus sargentii), which may be some of the largest specimens of this unique serpentine association.

No federally listed threatened or endangered plant species occur within the WSA. However, rare plants could occur on several habitats, including riparian forest, serpentine barrens, serpentine chaparral, and vernally wet areas. There is little specific data for rare plant occurrences within the WSA.

## WILDLIFE

The Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA supports a large variety of common terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Probably the most noteworthy is the southern bald eagle, a federally listed endangered species. Eagles migrating from as far away as Alaska and Canada winter around Cache Creek from Anderson Marsh on Clear Lake down Cache Creek to Highway 6 (Map 8). Natural seclusion and abundant food make the area ideal for wintering habitat. Recent surveys by BLM indicate as many as 55 eagles use the area with a major concentration in Wilson Valley near the center of the WSA. An area of the stream has been designated by the California Department of Fish and Game as an Area of Special Biological Importance in recognition of use by this endangered species. Golden eagles are also common and use the Cache Creek area extensively year-round. Both migrating and resident golden eagle populations feed on jackrabbits and ground squirrels in grassland areas. One known active golden eagle nest is located within the WSA. Prairie falcons use some of the more open habitats and make casual use of the area during migration.

Tule elk, a State protected species, occupy the northern half of the WSA (Map 8) within a Cooperative Management Area included within a California Department of Fish and Game Area of Special Biological Importance (ASBI). The herd was established through relocation efforts instituted in the early 1920s to reintroduce the species into native habitat it previously occupied prior to excessive hunting pressure which nearly resulted in the extinction of the herd in the early 1870s.

The Cache Creek herd presently consists of approximately 200 animals and ranges on 90,000 acres of oak-grassland, chamise chaparral, mixed chaparral, and riparian growth. BLM administers approximately one-third of this land--most of which is located within the WSA. Eighty-five percent of the public land within the elk range is chamise chaparral and is less critical to the elk than the oak-grassland and riparian habitats, which, for the most part, are under private ownership. Some 12,000 acres of the latter are being utilized by the Cache Creek herd as traditional rutting, feeding, calving, and bedding areas and are decreasing in habitat quality. The BLM is cooperating with the Department of Fish and Game to improve and expand habitat for tule elk on public lands to make up for the decrease in habitat quality on private lands (see Consistency With Other Land Use Plans, page 70).

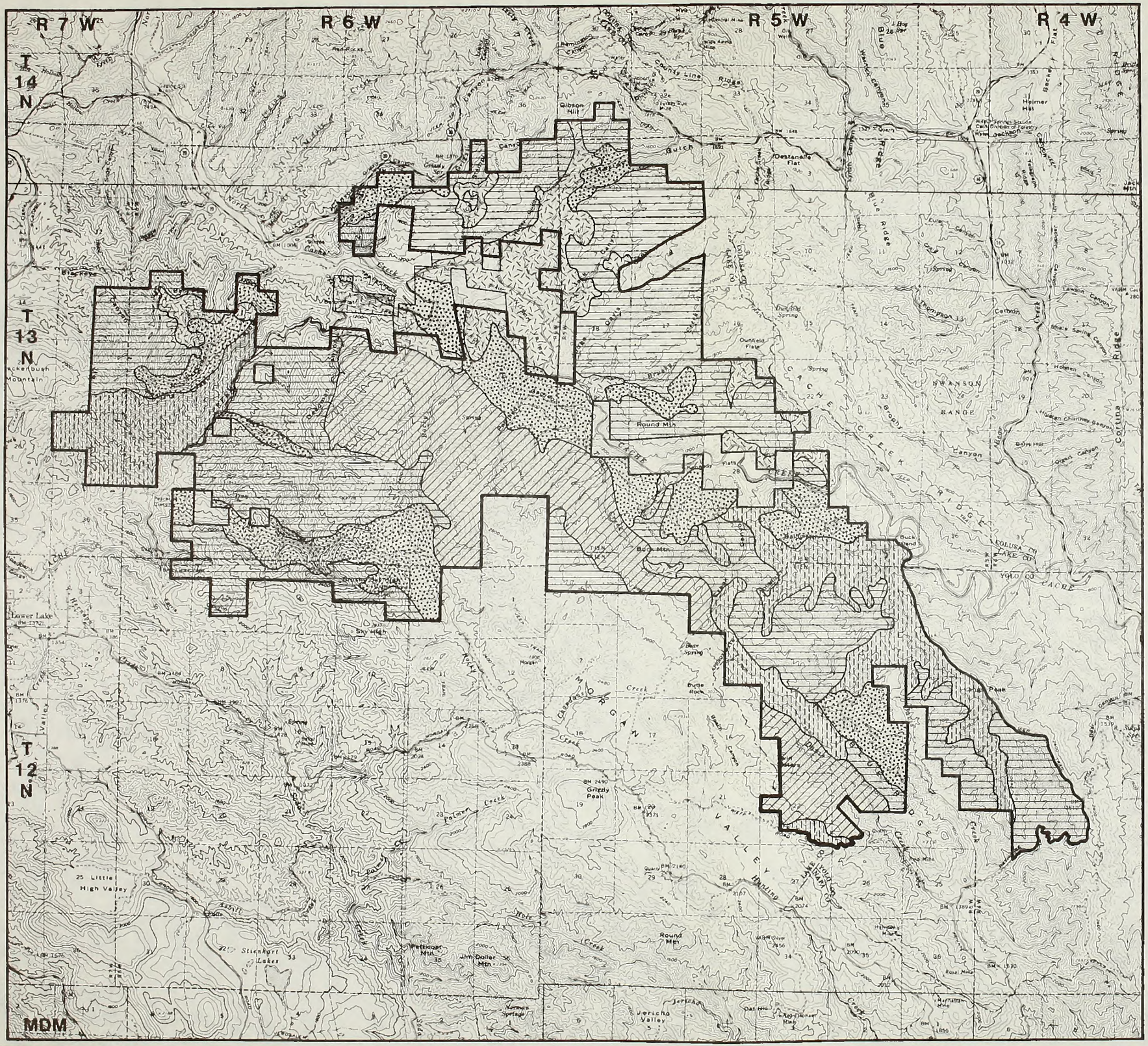
During July 1981, the Grizzly Canyon Wildfire burned 4,392 acres of chamise chaparral habitat within the elk range. The Lang's Peak Wildfire burned 13,660 acres of chamise chaparral, most of it south of the known limits of the elk range. Elk have been seen in significant numbers foraging on the tender, protein-rich vegetative growth which sprouted following the burns. As a result of the fires, 12,000 acres of habitat was added to the known range of the Cache Creek herd.

Fisheries habitat with the WSA consists of 11.7 miles in four streams (Map 8). Trout and Davis Creeks have little value as fisheries because of their lack of game fish species. Rocky Creek maintains a small population of trout. Cache Creek has a large assemblage of both game and nongame species. Sampling indicates a dominance of the nongame species, but fishermen report good fishing in the upper stretch of water from Peachtree Crossing down to the Peninsula. White catfish are the primary species caught, with channel catfish, bass, crappie, and sunfish also being taken. The large numbers of carp present in Cache Creek are an important source of food for the endangered bald eagle.

Other than the bald eagle, there are no threatened or endangered wildlife species residing in the WSA. The endangered American peregrine falcon may occasionally forage throughout the WSA.

## WATER QUALITY

There are only limited water quality data for either surface or ground waters within the WSA. Ground waters are currently not used. Surface waters are important for recreational and wildlife use in the WSA and for agricultural use downstream from the WSA. Current water quality is apparently adequate for these uses--no water quality problems have been identified. During periods of high runoff (primarily during emergency flood releases during the winter), Cache Creek and most of the other streams are quite muddy. During typical irrigation-release flows of summer, the water quality of Cache Creek closely mirrors that of Clear Lake.




# MAP 7

# ROCKY CREEK / CACHE CREEK

## WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

## VEGETATION

- WSA Boundary
- Oak Woodland / Savanna
- Mixed Chaparral
- Serpentine Chaparral
- Chamise Chaparral
- Grassland

Vegetation outside of the WSA is shown for those lands considered under the ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE, map 4.

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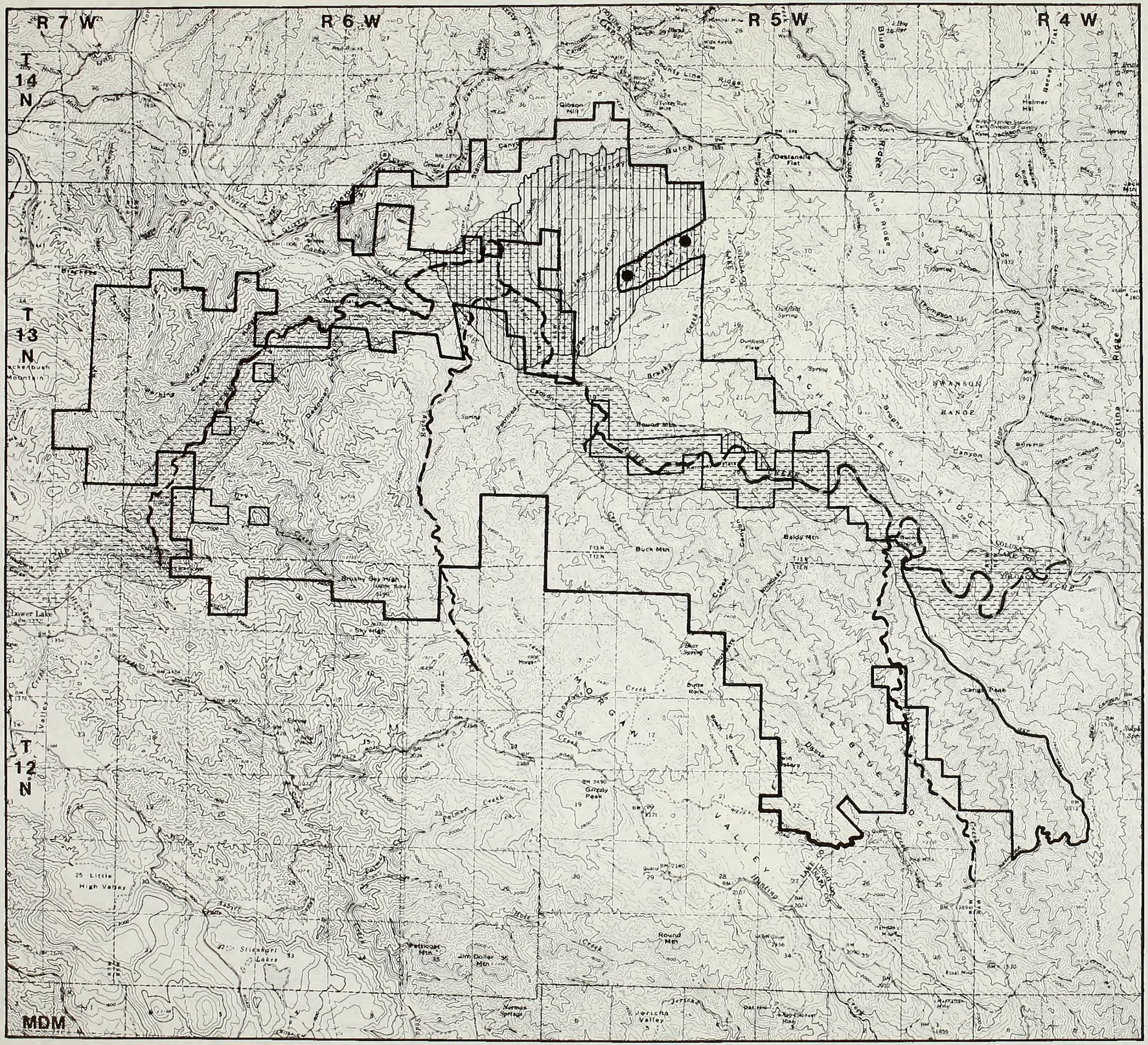


# MAP 8

# ROCKY CREEK / CACHE CREEK

## WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

## WILDLIFE HABITAT

WSA Boundary

Bald Eagle Seasonal Use Area

Tule Elk Main Sub - Herd Range

Tule Elk Seeding

Tule Elk Reservoirs

Fish Habitat

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## RECREATIONAL USE

The Cache Creek corridor provides excellent boating opportunities in a scenic setting. The stream is rated a Class II whitewater stream (easy with some moderately difficult rapids). A concessionaire runs raft trips during the summer from Buck Island to Rumsey (just downstream from the WSA).

Studies indicate a use level of approximately 5,000 visits per year on the river below the WSA. Within the WSA there are probably only 500 visits (250 for boating and 250 for hunting and fishing) because there is no easy public access to the section of Cache Creek within the WSA. However, boaters can put in at the Highway 20 crossing of the North Fork (when the water flow is adequate) and at the dam at Clear Lake (if permission is given by the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District).

Flows on Cache Creek are controlled by dams on Clear Lake and Indian Valley Reservoir. Flows are typically higher in summer, due to irrigation releases. This makes it one of very few streams in California boatable in late summer. This, combined with its proximity to urban populations, gives the stream special significance.

Cache Creek is listed in the "National Rivers Inventory" (Bureau of Outdoor Recreation 1980) as a potential wild and scenic river; it is in California Boating Trails (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1978) as a potential boating trail; and is designated a "Priority Action Waterway" in the California Protected Waterway Plan (California Resources Agency 1971).

About 45 miles of jeep trails occur in the WSA. These are short trails used primarily for hunter access. There are 4-wheel drive routes along Cache Creek, Perkins Creek Ridge, Trout Creek, and Baldy Mountain. These trails are generally less than 8 feet wide and are used little because of limited public access and maintenance. Many are accessible only by all-terrain vehicles. The back-country outside the river canyon offers deer and small game hunting, but the lack of public access limits such use. Some hunters boat the river for access. Dispersed activities, such as hiking and wildlife observation, are feasible in the back-country, but the chaparral landscape and the rough topography is not usually considered highly attractive for these uses. Total ORV use within the WSA is estimated at roughly 200 visits per year, 90 percent of which are for hunting.

## LIVESTOCK GRAZING

There are four grazing leases (numbers 5602, 5615, 5619, and 5628) in the WSA providing a total of 619 animal unit months (AUMs) of forage. The total acreage of the four leases is 10,502 acres. Lease 5628 has been proposed for cancellation because of manageability problems. Existing range improvements are limited to one spring development and less than one mile of fencing. No future improvements are planned. Three of the leases make a significant contribution to the livelihood of the operators. The value to the operator of the fourth lease is marginal. Some trespass grazing from adjacent private lands frequently occurs.

## MINING

Locatable minerals within the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA include mercury, gold, asbestos, and chromite. Mercury, asbestos, and chromite are critical minerals as defined by the Wilderness Study Policy. Historically, mercury has been the primary metal sought in the area, although gold was mined in the 1880s at Wilbur Springs.

Recently, a major gold deposit was delineated in the Knoxville area by the Homestake Mining Company. This development is located 2 miles southeast of the WSA and involves removal of 4,000 tons of ore and 20,000 tons of waste rock per day from a 200-acre open pit.

Map 9 shows the area within the WSA on which mining claims have been staked. These include approximately 300 claims of which 10 are for mercury and the rest are for gold. Only the mercury claims have been patented. The potential for economically feasible mineral development within the WSA exists, but there has been no mining activity within the past four years in the WSA.

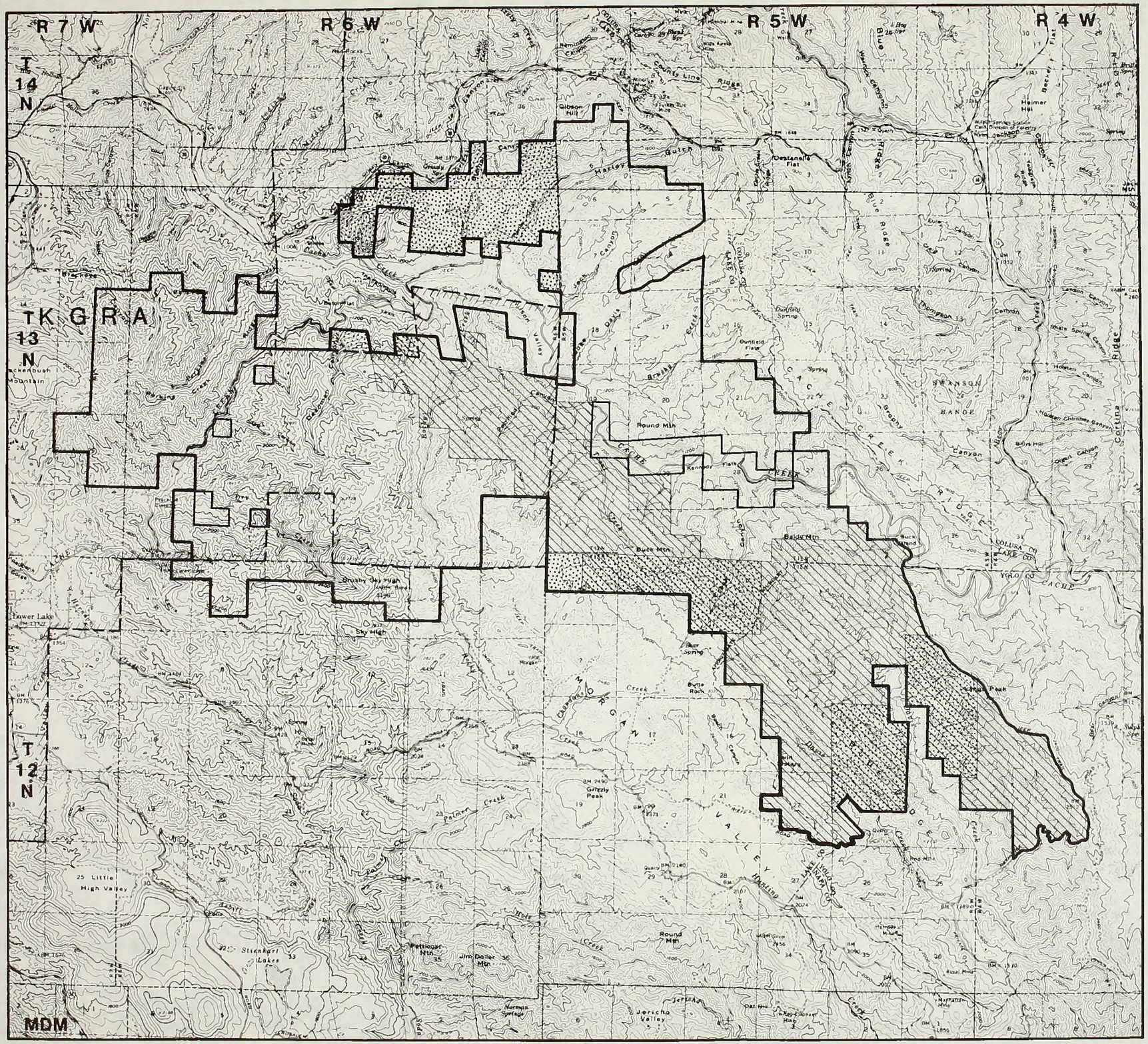
About one-third of the WSA is within the Geysers-Calistoga Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA) and there are several noncompetitive geothermal lease applications in the WSA (Map 9). In addition, about 80 percent of the WSA is blanketed with noncompetitive oil and gas lease applications. The potential for oil and gas and geothermal production however, is considered low since there has been no development or known exploration activities on any of these leases to date.

## HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS

The Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District had proposed a second small hydroelectric project on Cache Creek approximately 9 miles below the existing plant built at Clear Lake Dam. This dam would have flooded a small portion of the WSA. Plans for this project have since been dropped due to the reasons mentioned on page 9. Some, but not all, of the area to have been flooded is within power site reservations (Map 3). Power Site Reservation 365 and Power Site Reservation 536 withdrew land from settlement, sale, or entry. Mining claims are allowed under the Act of August 11, 1955. The U.S. Geological Survey is responsible for withdrawal review of these parcels and the withdrawals will need to be relinquished before the area could become wilderness. Regardless of the withdrawals, small hydroelectric projects are allowed in designated wilderness areas with Presidential approval.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

Very little of the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA has been inventoried for cultural resources. Evidence of prehistoric occupation, however, abounds within Wilson Valley. Housepit village sites in association with artifact-charged middens reveal heavy settlement by Hill Patwin in the late prehistoric period. Due to the relative inaccessibility of the WSA, Wilson Valley may have served as a refuge area after regional contact with




# MAP 9

# ROCKY CREEK / CACHE CREEK

## WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

## MINERAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

WSA Boundary

Geothermal Non-competitive Lease Applications

Known Geothermal Resource Area

Area of Mining Claim Concentrations

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Euro-American immigrants. Although the WSA is generally rugged and densely vegetated, task activity sites or early archaeological sites may be expected on the ridges and midslope flats (including the relict alluvial terraces of the Cache Formation). The only known site of contemporary and traditional value is a very significant magnesite quarry on the slopes of Perkins Creek Ridge overlooking Cache Creek. Historically, the area was used lightly for quicksilver mining and homesteading. The unstable remains of the Wilson homestead and related domestic features, e.g., hand-dug and rock-lined well, are the most visible evidence of historic use. One may expect diffuse, localized historic period remains within this rugged WSA.

# Chapter 4

# Environmental Consequences

# CHAPTER 4

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter focuses directly on the issues identified in Chapter 1. For each WSA the environmental impacts of the management action included in the Proposed Action and each alternative are described issue by issue. The environmental impacts of these alternatives on the areas' other resources have also been analyzed and have been found to be insignificant. To understand this analysis the management actions of each proposed action and alternative must be understood (see Chapter 2)

There are no separate headings in this chapter for mitigating measures or cumulative impacts. All potential mitigating measures have been incorporated in the proposed actions and alternatives; no new measures were developed during the analysis. Cumulative impacts have been specifically discussed by the interdisciplinary team and, where appropriate, incorporated into the analysis below.

### CEDAR ROUGHS WSA
### (CA-050-331)

PROPOSED ACTION (No Wilderness/No Action - Entire area remains an RNA and an ACEC)

Impacts on Wilderness Values

None of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation and none of the wilderness values on 5,597 acres would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. The short- and foreseeable long-term impact of this action would be small, since little development activity or increased motorized recreational use is anticipated whether or not the area is designated wilderness.

- Naturalness

The proposed water developments (see Management Actions (MAs) 1 and 2, page 13) would have a localized negative impact as visual intrusions. This is particularly true of the guzzlers since they are more visible than developed seeps and springs. However, because the visibility of these developments would be low, the impact would not affect the naturalness of more than 5 acres of the WSA.

The vehicle and foot trail developments (MAs 3 and 4) would reduce naturalness because some rocks and soil would be permanently relocated and some vegetation (less than 1 acre) including some of the Sargent cypress would be removed. However, it would be an extremely small percentage (less than 1%) of the area that would be affected visually by these developments.

- Solitude and Primitive Recreation

The water and access developments (all MAs) would detract from the feeling of solitude experienced by visitors in sight of them. However, the vast majority of the WSA would not be affected and a visitor could easily eliminate the impact by moving a few yards away from the development. The 50% increase on visitor use would also detract from opportunities for solitude. However, the use level anticipated (300 visitors per year by 1990) is well within the area's carrying capacity and it would not be difficult for visitors to avoid each other and find solitude.

There are few opportunities for primitive recreation in the Cedar Roughs WSA and impacts on those opportunities (primarily hiking and hunting) would be similar to the impacts on solitude and could be easily avoided by visitors. Although the new foot trail (MA 4) would detract some from the primitive recreation experience, it would enhance the opportunity for primitive recreation by providing access.

- Special Features

The two special features of the WSA, the Sargent cypress stand and the black bear population, would not be impacted measurably. Less than 1 acre of the cypress would be removed during trail construction (MA 4). The bear population would benefit from the water sources (MAs 1 and 2), particularly in summer,and might suffer some increased losses from increased hunter access (MA 4). No measurable change in the bear population is anticipated.

Conclusion:

There would be a loss of naturalness and solitude on less than 1 percent of the WSA from the water and access developments. The opportunity for primitive recreation would be enhanced by the new foot trail. Losses to the Sargent cypress stand would be less than 1 acre and the black bear population would be unchanged.

Impacts on the Sargent Cypress Stand

The only impact on the Sargent cypress stand and associated vegetation would be from the construction of the new foot trail (see MA 4, page 14) and, possibly, access related to research purposes (MA 3). Less than 1 acre of the 2,800-acre stand would be removed.

Conclusion:

There would be a loss of less than 1 acre of the 2,800-acre Sargent cypress stand.

Impacts on the Black Bear Population

The bears would benefit from the water sources (MAs 1 and 2), especially in summer when there are few water sources in the WSA. The proposed easements for research purposes (MA 3) probably would not impact the bears since no new vehicle routes would be constructed. The new recreational

trail access (MA 4) could have a negative impact by improving hunter access and hunter success. Overall, the black bear population would not change under this alternative because water improvements would offset any increased hunter success.

Conclusion:

Offsetting small negative impacts from improved hunter access and small positive impacts from water developments would result in no change in the bear population.

Impacts on Recreational Use Levels

The proposed new foot trail access (MA 4) will result in a 50 percent increase in recreational use, mostly hiking, with some increase in hunting by 1990. The existing access is controlled by the surrounding private landowners and the general public is excluded from the WSA. It is estimated that by 1990 recreation visits would amount to 300 per year (200 by locals and 100 by the general public). This is still well within the carrying capacity of the area.

Conclusion:

There would be a 50 percent increase (to 300 visits per year) in recreational use (hiking and hunting) from the improved foot trail access.

Adverse Impacts Which Cannot Be Avoided

The only unavoidable adverse impacts are the loss of vegetation, including Sargent cypress, from the construction of foot access trails and vehicle trail improvements for research-related access, and a lowering of wilderness values from the intrusion of these trails and water developments. All of these impacts are minor and could be reduced by proper site selection and screening.

Relationship Between Local Short-term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity

If a WSA is not designated wilderness, all present, short-term uses and management directions would continue. For Cedar Roughs WSA only a few uses (primarily research, hiking, and hunting) are anticipated, thus all future development options would remain open and long-term productivity would not be impacted. This is especially true because of the existing designation of the WSA as both an ACEC and an RNA. However, without wilderness designation, the possibility of activities (for example, mineral development) that could reduce long-term productivity is greater than under wilderness designation.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Activities such as mining, mineral leasing and material sales, could create an irreversible commitment of the wilderness resource in part or all of a WSA, if not designated as wilderness. However, development is not anticipated now or in the foreseeable future. No irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources are anticipated.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 5,597 acres of the Cedar Roughs WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and all values would be protected by legislative mandate. Wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and special features (Sargent cypress stand and black bear population) would be retained.

- Naturalness

The proposed seep/spring developments (see MA 1, page 14) and the new foot trail (MA 4) would have slight localized negative impacts as visual intrusions. However, in both cases the impacts to the WSA as a whole would be negligible, even less than under the Proposed Action because the guzzlers would not be constructed.

Even though current use is low, the road closures (MA 2) would have positive impacts on the naturalness of about 2 percent of the WSA, particularly as the roads reverted slowly to natural conditions (estimated to take 15 years).

- Solitude and Primitive Recreation

The impacts from the water and access development (MAs 1 and 4) would be the same as described for the Proposed Action except that they would be of even less magnitude because the more visible guzzler project would not be implemented and research-related easement and access would not be obtained. There would be no impacts on solitude from increased visitor use like there would be under the Proposed Action.

The closure of all jeep trails and ways (MA 2) would eliminate 275 vehicle entries per year by 1990 and enhance the feelings of unconfined solitude experienced by hikers, campers, and others.

- Special Features

Impacts on the Sargent cypress stand and the black bear population would be basically the same as under the Proposed Action, except the magnitude would be even less since there would be fewer water developments and less access permitted. Also, wilderness designation would give greater long-term security to these resources than they enjoy under the existing RNA and ACEC designations.

Conclusion:

Naturalness and solitude would be enhanced on about 2 percent of the WSA by the closure of the WSA to vehicular access. Otherwise impacts would be essentially the same as under the Proposed Action.

Consequences

Impacts on the Sargent Cypress Stand

The only direct impact on the Sargent cypress stand and associated vegetation would be from the construction of the new foot trail (see MA 4, page 14). Less than 1 acre of vegetation would be removed. This is essentially the same as under the Proposed Action, but under wilderness designation the long-term security of the cypress stand would be greater than under the existing RNA and ACEC designations.

Conclusion:

There would be slightly less direct loss of the stand than under the Proposed Action (because there would be no research-related access and associated possible disturbance) and more secure long-term protection.

Impacts on the Black Bear Population

The local bear population would benefit from the new water sources (MA 1) and would probably have a net reduction in hunting pressure. The new access trail (MA 4) would lead to some hunting by the general public, but this would be more than offset by a reduction in the amount of hunting done by local landowners due to the closure of the area to vehicle access (MA 2). There are no data on hunter success in the area, but it may amount to one bear per year killed within the WSA. This would perhaps be reduced to one killed every two years. The net benefit to the bear population would not be measurable in the short term. However, coupled with the increased overall security provided by wilderness designation, there could be measurable benefits in the long term, perhaps a 5-10 percent increase in the chance of seeing a bear or evidence of a bear's presence (sign).

Conclusion:

Small positive impacts from water developments and reduced hunting pressure coupled with increased long-term security from wilderness designation could result in a 5-10 percent increase in the black bear population.

Impacts on Recreational Use Levels

The positive impact from the new foot trail access (MA 4) would be the same as described for the Proposed Action. However, there would be an offsetting loss of recreational use (primarily by local landowners) due to the closure of the area to vehicle access (MA 2). It is estimated that the net result would be no change in recreational use levels. The 4 miles of jeep trails within the WSA would gradually revert to natural vegetation and within 15 years would be nearly unnoticeable.

Conclusion:

The creation of foot trail access for the general public would be offset by the loss of vehicle access by local landowners, the result being no change in overall recreational use levels.

ROCKY CREEK-CACHE CREEK WSA
(CA-050-317)

PROPOSED ACTION (No Wilderness/No Action - Continue RNA/ACEC on part of area)

Impacts on Wilderness Values

None of the WSA or recently acquired adjacent lands would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation and none of the wilderness values on 35,100 acres would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. The short-term (0-15 years) impact of this action would be small because most of the wilderness values (for example, the bald eagle wintering population and the naturalness of the area) would not be significantly impacted and some (such as the tule elk) would be enhanced. However, in the long term (over 15 years) pressures for development could be a serious threat to many wilderness values under this alternative.

- Naturalness

The naturalness of this WSA would be enhanced by the closure of vehicle access to Wilson Valley (MA 6, page 18) and, depending on the nature of future BLM actions, the land acquisitions (MAs 11 and 12). However, there are several management actions that would have moderate negative impacts on naturalness. These include road and trail developments (MAs 5, 7, 8, and 10), the vegetation and wildlife management actions (MAs 1, 2, and 3) and the 200-yard riprap barrier on Rocky Creek (MA 4). Locally detrimental would be the 0.25 mile of new road which would penetrate the WSA that is part of MA 5 and the permanent vegetation changes that would result from MAs 2 and 3. Overall, naturalness would be lost in the specific locations, totaling about 900 acres, where the above-mentioned management actions are implemented.

- Solitude and Primitive Recreation

Impacts on solitude would mirror those described above for naturalness. Evidence of man's presence (such as trails) detracts from a feeling of solitude. However, this impact would apply to only about 3 percent of the WSA and in most places it would be easy for visitors to avoid places, views, or noises that disturb solitude.

There are many opportunities for primitive recreation in the WSA (camping, fishing, whitewater boating, hunting, bird watching, etc.), and impacts on those opportunities would be similar to the impacts on solitude. The access roads and trails, while causing some negative impacts by their presence, enhance the opportunity for primitive recreation by allowing more people to get to where such recreation is possible.

- Special Features

Special features in this WSA are the bald eagles, the tule elk, the river corridor, archaeological resources along the river, and the Northern California Chaparral Research Natural Area. All of the special features would receive net positive impacts from the Proposed Action. The only negative impacts would be from increased human access (MAs 5, 7, 8, and 10) and all of them would be low. Present use levels are not measurably impacting these resources. The increase in use is not expected to be more than 20 percent over present levels (see page 61), and it would be focused on areas and seasons of the year where and when the special features would not be affected. For example, the eagles are not present during the summer when recreational use of the river is the highest and access to Wilson Valley, where most of the archaeological resources are located, would be restricted (MA 6) during all seasons. The elk would benefit considerably from the vegetation changes (MAs 1, 2, and 3). All of the special features would be positively impacted by the land acquisitions (MAs 11 and 12) and the closure of Wilson Valley to vehicles (MA 6). Controlling erosion at the mercury mine (MA 4) would enhance the RNA and improve water quality in the river corridor.

Conclusion:

Naturalness and solitude would be lost in about 3 percent of the WSA primarily from road and trail developments and vegetation manipulations. Opportunities for primitive recreation would be enhanced by improved access. All of the special features (which include the bald eagles, tule elk, the river corridor, archaeological resources along the river, and the RNA) would be enhanced or provided increased protection. Overall, wilderness values would be enhanced slightly, at least in the short term.

Impacts on Water Quality

Several management actions would benefit water quality while others would cause water quality problems, the net result being no measurable change in the overall water quality situation in the WSA. The prescribed burning of 600 acres per year (MA 1) would increase siltation in Cache Creek as would the brush conversions (MA 2), the siltation from the latter being considerably less (because only 20 acres per year would be involved) and primarily in secondary drainages. Both problems at a given site would decrease to zero after five years as vegetation succession proceeded. However, since these management actions would be applied annually, there would continually be up to 3,000 acres (5 x 600 acres) with at least some increase in erosion after the first five years following implementation. The proposed construction of a 0.25-mile access road into the WSA and hiking trails along the river corridor (MAs 5 and 7) would have a minor impact on water quality due to a slight increase in erosion and the resulting sediment.

The existing water quality situation in Cache Creek would be improved sufficiently to offset the impacts mentioned above by the stipulations to be imposed on the existing mercury mine (MA 4) and by the closure of Wilson Valley to vehicle access (MA 6).

Conclusion:

Although there would be local improvements in water quality from reduced vehicle access and the imposition of mining stipulations there would also be siltation problems caused by vegetation manipulations and access construction, the net result being no change in overall water quality.

Impacts on Hunting and Fishing Use Levels

Hunting and fishing use levels would be increased about 50 to 60 percent by maintenance and lengthening of an existing 1.0-mile access road across the northwest edge of the WSA to 1.5 miles (MA 5) and construction of 10 miles of trails along the river corridor (MA 7). Other actions that would improve access would be the prescribed burning and brush conversions (MAs 1 and 2) which open up areas, particularly for hunters, and the potential mineral developments (MAs 8 and 10) which could result in additional access roads.

The closure of Wilson Valley to vehicles would have a severe impact on access into that area, but it would affect only 5-10 percent of the users of the WSA. Therefore, the overall impact of this alternative on hunting and fishing use would be to increase it about 50 percent to roughly 375 visits per year within the WSA.

Conclusion:

The overall impact on hunting and fishing would be to increase use levels about 50 percent to roughly 375 visits per year. The benefits from the new trails and access road, vegetation manipulations, and mining access roads would outweigh the closure of Wilson Valley to vehicles.

Impacts on Gold and Mercury Mining Development

Although the stipulations to be placed on the mercury mine (MA 4) may adversely affect its production (the mine is currently not producing any mercury) and there could be some conflict between mining and energy development (MA 8), overall, mining would benefit, albeit very slightly, from the vegetation manipulations (MAs 1 and 2) which would facilitate mining operations by removing brush.

Conclusion:

There would be very slight positive net impacts on gold and mercury mining development, mainly from brush removal. These would be partially counterbalanced by stipulations on mercury mining and possible conflicts with energy developments.

Impacts on Geothermal and Oil and Gas Development

The land acquisitions (MAs 11 and 12) would increase the land available for oil and gas leasing and development. However, Section 15, paragraph C of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (PL 91-581) states that geothermal leases under this Act shall not be issued for lands acquired or reserved for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife that are

threatened with extinction (i.e., bald eagle). The vegetation manipulations (MAs 1 and 2) would facilitate energy resource exploration by removing brush which would otherwise impede access and the use of necessary exploration equipment.

Conclusion:

There would be slight positive impacts to oil and gas development from the land acquisitions and slight positive impacts to both geothermal and oil and gas development from the proposed vegetation manipulations which would remove brush that would otherwise impede access.

Impacts on Whitewater Boating Use Levels

The improvement and construction of a 1.5-mile access road (1.0 mile improvement, 0.5 mile new construction) across the northwest boundary of the WSA (MA 5) would increase boating use within the WSA about 20 percent to roughly 300 visits per year because it opens up a new access for river users. This management action would be designed specifically to provide boaters with needed access. The trail to be built along the river corridor (MA 7) would also provide some access for boaters who choose to carry inflatable rafts. The land acquisitions (MAs 11 and 12) may benefit boating by giving BLM the opportunity to prevent incompatible actions in those areas.

Closure of Wilson Valley to vehicles (MA 6) would not affect whitewater boating because existing vehicle access into that area is dependent on low flows (the vehicles have to cross the river to get to Wilson Valley) which are not compatible with boating.

Conclusion:

There would be an increase in whitewater boating use levels of about 20 percent to roughly 300 visits per year primarily from improved access and the new trail along the river corridor. None of the management actions would negatively impact whitewater boating.

Impacts on Bald Eagle Winter Population Levels

It is estimated that, overall, the Proposed Action would have no net impact on the eagles or their habitat. There would be low negative impacts from human disturbance as a result of improved access (MAs 5 and 7). However, these access routes would be used primarily in the summer when the eagles are not present. Likewise, the closure of Wilson Valley to vehicles (MA 6) would reduce disturbance of the eagles, but most of the existing use of that area occurs during periods of high flow (in a typical weather year, this is in the summer--when the eagles are not there) because to get to the southern (larger) portion of Wilson Valley the vehicles must cross the river which typically has higher flows for irrigation releases at this time, making passage, even in 4-wheel drive vehicles, very difficult if not impossible. The majority of summertime vehicle access into Wilson Valley is from jeep trails to the north, which do not require any crossing of Cache Creek. This limits vehicle use in Wilson Valley to that portion of the valley on the north side of Cache Creek. The eagles could also

benefit from the proposed acquisitions (MAs 11 and 12) because the acquisitions would give BLM the opportunity to prevent uses potentially harmful to the eagles. Other management actions (for example mineral development and vegetation management) would not impact the eagles because the development levels would be low and they would not take place in the eagle habitat.

Conclusion:

The bald eagles and their habitat would benefit slightly from the land acquisitions and the closure of Wilson Valley to vehicles. They would be slightly negatively impacted by improved human access and possible harassment. Overall, there would be no net impact.

Impacts on Tule Elk Habitat

Benefits to tule elk and their habitat would be high under this alternative primarily because of vegetation changes and reduced disturbance. Although there would be some minor negative impacts from disturbance caused by improved access (MAs 5, 7, 8, and 10) and mineral development induced by land acquisitions (MAs 11 and 12), these impacts would be far outweighed by the prescribed burning, brush conversions, and supplemental seeding (MAs 1, 2, and 3) all of which are designed specifically to benefit the elk and would increase the amount of high quality habitat by roughly 20 percent. The closure of Wilson Valley to vehicles (MA 6) would reduce disturbance and harassment in an area that is important to the elk. The land acquisitions (MAs 11 and 12) could benefit by allowing BLM to prevent or control incompatible uses and to implement practices that would benefit the elk.

Conclusion:

The elk would benefit greatly from this alternative, primarily from reduced human disturbance and vegetation manipulations and seedings that would increase the amount of high quality habitat by roughly 20 percent.

Adverse Impacts Which Cannot Be Avoided

Unavoidable adverse impacts include increased silt load in Cache Creek and tributaries and the loss of vegetation from the construction of access trails and roads; a lowering of wilderness values from the intrusion of trails, roads, and mineral development activities; and increased potential for some disturbance of wintering bald eagles and tule elk.

Relationship Between Local Short-term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity

If a WSA is not designated wilderness, all present, short-term uses and management directions would continue. For the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA there are many ongoing uses--hunting, fishing, hiking, whitewater boating, livestock grazing, wildlife management (bald eagles and tule elk), mining and, potentially, geothermal and oil and gas exploration. Even though nearly 50 percent of the WSA has been designated as either the Cache Creek Corridor ACEC or the Northern California Chaparral RNA (or both in those

areas where they overlap) most future development options will remain open if Congress so chooses and long-term productivity is not likely to be seriously impacted. However, without wilderness designation the possibility of activities (for example, increased mineral development) that could reduce long-term productivity is greater than under wilderness designation.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

There is currently evidence of man's activities (mines, trails and ways, primitive campsites, etc.) in the WSA. If the area is not designated wilderness, there could be an irreversible commitment of the wilderness resource if such activities are allowed to continue to the point that high quality wilderness could neither be maintained nor restored.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The entire WSA plus recently acquired adjacent lands (a total of 35,108 acres) would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. Although an analysis of the impacts of the management actions does not show particularly large differences between this alternative and the Proposed Action (compare Tables 1 and 2), this is partly because the management actions and their analysis focus on the foreseeable future (approximately 0-15 years). The impact of unforeseen actions is not analyzed even though the area would be protected from many, perhaps most, unforeseen actions by wilderness designation.

Another problem created by the short-term nature of the analysis in this document is the length of time required to heal or repair the numerous imprints of man's existence that occur on the area. Most would take many decades to heal, some probably could never be healed. Wilderness designation, however, would allow the process of healing to begin before a threshold is reached beyond which a high quality wilderness environment could never be achieved in this area.

- Naturalness

There would eventually be a more natural appearance on about 2 percent of the WSA due primarily to the closure of the area to vehicles (MA 3), even though current vehicular use of the area is low. Also benefiting naturalness would be the cleaning up of the mercury mine (MA 4) and the land acquisitions (MAs 12 and 13) which would allow BLM to prevent actions that would impair naturalness.

Actions having a negative impact on naturalness would be the prescribed burning and supplemental seeding (MAs 1 and 2), the impacts from which would only last about five years on a given site; and those actions that would improve access to the area (MAs 5, 7, 9, and 11). Of the latter, potential roads associated with the development of mining claims would be the most damaging.

- Solitude and Primitive Recreation

Impacts on solitude would be basically the same as those described for naturalness. In most cases solitude could easily be achieved by moving a short distance from a development (i.e., a trail) that may impair solitude. In addition, there would be a low positive impact from the system of permitting commercial float trips which would reduce the number of people using the river corridor and, thereby, increase the opportunities for solitude for those who did use the area.

Opportunities for primitive recreation would be enhanced by the new access provided (particularly MAs 5 and 7). These opportunities include camping, fishing, whitewater boating, hunting, and eagle watching.

- Special Features

The bald eagles, tule elk, river corridor, archaeological resources along the river, and Northern California Chaparral Research Natural Area would all be impacted in a manner similar to that described for the Proposed Action (see page 59). However, there would be a few important differences. There would be less direct management of wildlife--the vegetation treatments would involve less acreage and be less permanent (no brush conversions and no drilling of seed). Consequently, the elk would not benefit as much. The closure of the entire area to vehicles, not just Wilson Valley (MA 3) would benefit all special features substantially. Also, the relatively permanent protection provided by wilderness designation would add to the security of the special features.

Conclusion:

The net impact of the management actions would be to enhance wilderness values on about 3 percent of the WSA primarily from the prohibition of vehicular access and the protection and enhancement of special features. In addition, long-term security from unanticipated adverse future actions would be provided.

Impacts on Water Quality

Although some management actions would adversely affect water quality, the overall impact of this alternative would be moderately positive. The prescribed burning of 500 acres per year (MA 1) would have an impact similar to that described under the Proposed Action (see page 59) except that the impacts would be somewhat less because the acreage affected would be 20 percent less and heavy equipment would not be used. Access construction and mineral development activities (MAs 5, 7, 9, and 11) would have negative impacts on water quality, but less than under the Proposed Action because more stringent stipulations would be enforced in a wilderness area.

There would be widespread moderate improvement in water quality from closure of the entire wilderness area to vehicles (MA 3). The mercury mine stipulations (MA 4) would result in moderate local water quality improvement and the land acquisitions (MAs 12 and 13) would benefit water quality slightly by leading to the elimination of any existing livestock grazing (MA 15) and giving the BLM control of management actions on those lands.

Consequences

Conclusion:

Although there would be some negative impacts to water quality from prescribed burning and access, overall it would improve moderately due to closure of the area to vehicles, land acquisitions, and the imposition of mining stipulations.

Impacts on Hunting and Fishing Use Levels

Current vehicle access (which is limited by terrain and high summer and fall flows in Cache Creek) would be eliminated by MA 3. This would affect (eliminate) about 75 hunting and fishing visits per year. Overall, access would be improved under wilderness designation. Particularly valuable would be the new trails along the river corridor (MA 5) and the new access across the northwest boundary of the area (MA 7) although the latter would be used primarily by boaters. In addition, mineral developments (MAs 9 and 11) and the prescribed burning (MA 1) would open up some new areas. Under this alternative, net hunting and fishing use would increase about 20 percent to 300 visits per year.

Conclusion:

Overall, there would be about a 20 percent increase in hunting and fishing use levels to roughly 300 visits per year due primarily to the new access road (which would be extended up to the boundary of the WSA) and trails which would override the negative effect of closure of the area to vehicle access.

Impacts on Gold and Mercury Mining Development

Impacts on gold and mercury mining development would be moderately negative primarily because future claims would not be allowed. Also, the stipulations required in a wilderness area and also those proposed for the mercury mine (MA 4) would add to the costs of development. Existing claims could benefit slightly from the prescribed burning (MA 1), which would open up areas and make it easier to mine.

If the lands slated for acquisition (MAs 12 and 13) are acquired before designation, mining claims could be made on them. There is at least speculative potential because they are near existing claims which have or are being developed.

Conclusion:

Although the acquisitions could temporarily open new areas and existing claims could benefit from prescribed burning, overall, impacts would be moderately negative because of increased operating costs and the fact that future claims would not be allowed.

Impacts on Geothermal and Oil and Gas Development

The impacts on geothermal and oil and gas development would be the same as those described for gold and mercury mining, above. The only exception is that geothermal development would not be permitted on the acquired lands (see page 49).

Conclusion:

Same as for gold and mercury mining, except as noted above regarding the restrictions on geothermal development on the acquired lands.

Impacts on Whitewater Boating Use Levels

There would be a 15 percent increase in whitewater boating use levels to about 285 visits per year. About 75 percent of the current access into the WSA would be affected at least some by the closure of the entire area to vehicles (MA 3). However, this would be counterbalanced by the new road (outside the area) and trail specifically designed to improve boater access (MA 7). The new trail along the river (MA 5) would also increase access.

The system for permitting commercial float trips (MA 8) would initially not affect the number of trips per year, or the quality of those trips, but would help to maintain the quality of the trips and hold the number of trips down once a threshold of 20 commercial visits per day had been reached. The planned acquisitions (MAs 12 and 13) would allow the BLM to implement actions (as yet unspecified) to benefit boating and prevent those that would be detrimental.

Conclusion:

Whitewater boating use levels would increase about 15 percent to roughly 285 visits per year from wilderness designation because of improved access (despite closure of the area to vehicles) and improved trip quality accomplished through land acquisitions and a permitting system.

Impacts on Bald Eagle Winter Population Levels

Wilderness designation would have a positive impact on the eagles primarily because closure of the area to vehicles (MA 3) would reduce opportunities for harassment and poaching. The eagles could also benefit from management options associated with the proposed land acquisitions (MAs 12 and 13). There would be a low negative impact from the new foot trail access (MAs 5 and 7), but most of the use of these trails would be in the summer when the eagles are not there.

Conclusion:

There would be moderately beneficial impacts on the eagles, primarily from closure of the area to vehicles. Land acquisition would also help. Access trails would lead to some disturbance, but not enough to override the benefits from closure of the area to vehicles.

Impacts on Tule Elk Habitat

Overall impacts on tule elk habitat would be moderately positive primarily because of vegetation changes and reduced disturbance. However, the increase in high quality habitat would not be as great (only 15 percent rather than 20 percent) as under the Proposed Action because there would be less burning on no vegetation conversions. The only negative impacts

would be from several sources of increased access (MAs 5, 7, 9, and 11) that could lead to minor disturbance problems. Elk would benefit considerably from the prescribed burning and seeding (MAs 1 and 2) which would increase the amount of high-quality food available to them. They would benefit moderately from the closure of the area to vehicles (MA 3) because they are easily spooked by vehicles. Closure of Cache Creek to boating in the spring (MA 8) would protect the elk from disturbance during the calving season and the land acquisitions (MAs 12 and 13) would produce a low positive impact by leading to the removal of existing grazing (MA 15) thereby reducing competition for forage.

Conclusion:

The elk would benefit primarily from reduced disturbance and increased high-quality food sources that would increase the amount of high quality habitat by 15 percent.

## PARTIAL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

### Impacts on Wilderness Values

At the level of precision of this analysis, the impacts of this alternative are the same as those described for the All Wilderness Alternative because the management actions for the two alternatives are the same. The only exceptions are that the acreages affected by Management Actions 3 and 9 would be less. This would not be sufficient, however, to change the impacts described.

# Chapter 5

# Consultation & Coordination

# CHAPTER 5

# CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

## OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS

Consultation and coordination with the public and governmental agencies was a planned and integral part of the development of the alternatives analyzed in the draft and final EIS. Formal and informal consultation began in 1978 with the initial inventory of public lands to determine their wilderness potential.

A Federal Register notice, a news release, legal notices and a filing with the California State Clearinghouse in February 1982 announced the initiation of the Clear Lake MFP Amendment and EIS, invited comments and solicited suggestions and input on issues to be discussed and analyzed.

Oral and written comments received throughout the planning process were used in the development of the Proposed Actions and alternatives analyzed in the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS was completed in June 1982 and filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA and BLM notices of availability were published in the Federal Register on Friday, July 2, 1982. A news release was also sent to local newspapers announcing the availability of the document for public review. The notice of availability also announced the formal public hearing which was held in Woodland, California, on August 2, 1982.

Due to a change in BLM planning regulations, the draft EIS was sent to the Governor of California for an additional 30-day review for consistency with State agency plans.

## COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) was requested on January 3, 1985, to provide formal consultation regarding the Southern Bald Eagle in the Rocky Creek/Cache Creek WSA and surrounding lands. This request was in regard to the Geothermal Public Power Line, one of the potential routes of which may have impacted the eagles in the WSA. The results of this consultation have been incorporated into this study (see pages 40 and 53) as appropriate. Further Section 7 consultation with FWS with regard to either of the WSAs will be deferred until there is a proposal to implement a management action that, in BLM's judgment, may affect a threatened or endangered species. (See memo from FWS in the Appendix.)

In regards to Yolo County's the proposed hydroelectric development on Cache Creek, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and Borcalli Ensign and Buckley (the project engineer) have been consulted to determine the status of that proposal.

## RESULTS FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING

The hearing officer was David M. "Mike" Evans, Employee Development Specialist, Sacramento, California. The BLM was represented by Stanley R. Whitmarsh, Wilderness Program Coordinator; Timothy P. Julius, Environmental Specialist; Jonathan Foster, Landscape Architect; and Barbara Taglio, Public Affairs, Ukiah District, California. Over 40 people attended the hearing and 16 presented oral testimony. (A verbatim transcript is on file at the Ukiah District Office.)

### COMMENTS ON THE CEDAR ROUGHS WSA

Sixteen people at the hearing testified with regard to the Cedar Roughs WSA. Of these, one supported the BLM's proposal for nonwilderness, and 15 supported wilderness designation.

The following spoke on behalf of organizations and local agencies supporting the BLM proposal: Volker Eisele, Napa Valley Foundation and Napa County Farm Bureau.

The following spoke on behalf of organizations supporting wilderness designation of the 7,183-acre WSA: Klarer Kingsley, Napa Group, Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club; Alan Carlton, East Bay Chapter, Sierra Club; Jeff Sawers, Bay Area Chapter, Sierra Club; Michael Reid, Yolano Group, Sierra Club; Harold Kelly, Napa County Land Trust; Ellen Buehler, Citizens Council for Napa; and Jim Eaton, California Wilderness Coalition. The following spoke as individuals supporting wilderness: Chris Hansen, Wendy Cohen, Marilyn Glad, Louis Ireland, Bob McLaughlin, Glen Holstein (see comment letter 20), Dennis Coules, and Bett Newman.

### COMMENTS ON THE ROCKY CREEK-CACHE CREEK WSA

Sixteen people at the hearing testified with regard to the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA. Of these, no one supported the BLM's proposal for nonwilderness; nine supported the All Wilderness Alternative; four favored the Partial Wilderness Alternative; and three took no position.

The following spoke on behalf of organizations supporting the All Wilderness Alternative: Jim Eaton, California Wilderness Coalition. The following spoke as individuals supporting the All Wilderness Alternative: Clyde Wise, Chris Hansen, Wendy Cohen, Marilyn Glad (see comment letter 30), Louis Ireland, Glen Holstein, Dennis Coules, and Bett Newman.

The following spoke on behalf of organizations supporting the Partial Wilderness Alternative: Jeff Sawers, Bay Area Chapter, Sierra Club; Michael Reid, Yolano Group, Sierra Club; and Klarer Kingsley, Napa Group, Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club. Bob McLaughlin spoke as an individual supporting Partial Wilderness.

Edward Crowley, speaking on behalf of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, took no position, but stated that written comments would follow. (See Comment Letter No. 7, p. 84.) James Eagan, speaking on behalf of the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, took no position, but stated that they would oppose any alternative that would eliminate the possibility of their proposed hydroelectric project. (Plans for the hydroelectric project have since been dropped--see page 9.) William Lowrey, speaking as an individual and an adjacent landowner took no position, but expressed concern about increased rafting and recreational use burdening local fire and police districts and about trespass and vandalism.

## CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANS

FLPMA requires that BLM plans be as consistent as possible with the plans of other agencies, while Federal laws, policies, and regulations are also considered. The plans of cities, counties, the state, and other Federal agencies were considered in the preparation of this EIS. Protection of Cedar Roughs as "open space" as proposed under both alternatives for that WSA would be consistent with the General Plan of Napa County.

The alternatives for the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA are generally consistent with applicable State and local plans. Passive uses which protect the watershed combined with uses such as grazing and low levels of recreation appear to be consistent with the Capay Valley General Plan and Lake County's General Plan. The Yolo County Board of Suprvisors has expressed concern that wilderness designation would limit their flexibility to manage activities on private land near and within the boundaries of the wilderness. They are also concerned that recreational use and development levels would increase. However, that increase would be almost entirely in Lake County and wilderness is a long-term commitment which is not as susceptible to changes in political situations as nonwilderness is. However, while wilderness designation would create an entity which local governments would need to consider in their decisionmaking process, it does not limit authority of either local governments or Federal agencies to manage off-site activities (outside the wilderness) to whatever level they desire. Department of Fish and Game plans for elk habitat improvements would be restricted under the All Wilderness and the Partial Wilderness Alternatives. The alternatives for powerline location developed by the Geothermal Public Power Line project avoid the WSA and, thus, do not conflict with the wilderness designation alternatives.

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE DRAFT EIS

The following agencies, organizations, and individuals received copies of the Draft EIS.

### FEDERAL AGENCIES

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Lakewood, CO
Bureau of Reclamation, Napa and Sacramento, CA, and Washington, D.C.
Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco, CA, and Washington, D.C.
Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, CA, and Washington, D.C.
Forest Service, Stonyford and Willows, CA, and Washington, D.C.
Soil Conservation Service, Colusa, Ukiah, and Sacramento, CA, and Washington, D.C.
U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.
Bureau of Mines, Washington, D.C.
National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, D.C.
Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C.
Department of Transportaion, Washington, D.C.
U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.
Department of Energy, Washington, D.C.
Federal Aviation Administration, Washington, D.C.
Federal Highway Administration, Washington, D.C.

### STATE AGENCIES

Air Resources Board, Sacramento, CA
Department of Fish and Game, Yountville and Rancho Cordova, CA
Department of Forestry, Clearlake Oaks, CA
Department of Parks and Recreation, Carlotta and Sacramento, CA
Department of Water Resources, Red Bluff, CA
Division of Oil and Gas, Sacramento, CA
State Lands Commission, Sacramento, CA
Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

### LOCAL AGENCIES

Colusa County Library, Colusa, CA
Colusa County Planning Department, Colusa, CA
Lake County Library, Lakeport, CA
Lake County Planning Department, Lakeport, CA
Mendocino County Planning Department, Ukiah, CA
Napa County Library, Napa, CA
Napa County Planning Department, Napa, CA
Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District, Healdsburg, CA
Sonoma County Planning Department, Santa Rosa, CA
Yolo County Air Pollution Control District, Woodland, CA
Yolo County Library, Woodland, CA
Yolo County Planning Department, Woodland, CA

Coordination

ORGANIZATIONS

Anaconda Minerals Company, Denver, CO
Atlantic Richfield Company, Denver, CO
Bar HS Ranch, Ukiah, CA
Cache Creek Gravel Company, San Leandro, CA
Cahto Coalition, Leggett, CA
California Native Plant Society, Corralitos, Eureka, Gualala, Napa, Sacramento, Santa Rosa, Tiburon, and Ukiah, CA
California Natural Areas Coordinating Council, Sonoma, CA
California Wilderness Coalition, Davis, CA
California Wilderness Coalition, Davis, CA
Chevron Resources, San Francisco, CA
Citizens Committee to Save Our public Lands, Willits, CA
Coastal Headwaters Association, Whitethorn, CA
CORVA, Walnut Creek, CA
Desert Mountain Tea Company, Fort Bragg, CA
Emerald Pond Forest Products, Alameda, CA
Forestry Network, Ukiah, CA
Geysers 1916 Act Landowners, Geyserville, CA
Hidden Springs Ranch, Leggett, CA
Holmangers Press, Whitethorn, CA
Homestake Mining Company, Napa and San Francisco, CA
Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA
International Woodworkers of America, Fort Bragg, CA
Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, Ukiah, CA
Lynn Title Services, Sacramento, CA
Madrone Audubon Society, Santa Rosa, CA
Mayacmas Ranch, Kelseyville, CA
Napa Valley Foundation, Napa, CA
Northern California Council of Fly Fishing Clubs, Sacramento, CA
North Bay Trail Riders, Vallejo, CA
Northcoast Environmental Center, Arcata, CA
Noyo Women for Fisheries, Fort Bragg, CA
Off-Road Advertiser, Lakewood, CA
Pacific Gas and Electric, Garberville and San Francisco, CA
PEG, Inc., Eureka, CA
Phillips Petroleum, Salt Lake City, UT
Red Mountain Association, Leggett, CA
Shooter's Inc., Garberville, CA
Sierra Club, Napa, Oakland, Santa Rosa, and Trinidad, CA
Sonoma Land Trust, Santa Rosa, CA
Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA
South Fork Mountain Study Group, Hayfork, CA
Tenneco Oil Company, Bakersfield, CA
The Geysers, Santa Monica, CA
The Nature Conservancy, San Francisco, CA
The Wilderness Society, San Francisco, CA
Union Oil Company of California, Indio, Los Angeles, and Santa Rosa, CA
University of California, Hopland Field Station, Hopland, CA
Western Surfing Association, Trinidad, CA
Wilderness Society, Trinidad, CA
Wildlife Management Institute, Portland, OR
Willits 4-Wheel Drive Club, Willits, CA
Yolo County Cattlemen's Association, Woodland, CA

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Federal

Congressman Don Clausen, Santa Rosa, CA
Congressman Vic Fazzio, Vallejo, CA
Senator S.I. Hayakawa, San Francisco, CA

State

Assemblyman Douglas H. Bosco, Sebastopol, CA
Assemblyman Tom Hannigan, Fairfield, CA
Assemblyman Wally Herger, Yuba City, CA
Assemblyman Don Sebastiani, Sonoma, CA
Senator Ray Johnson, Redding, CA
Senator Barry Keene, San Rafael, CA
Senator Jim Nielson, Woodland, CA

Local

Colusa County Board of Supervisors
Lake County Board of Supervisors
Napa County Board of Supervisors
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

INDIVIDUALS

Philip S. Barber, Willits, CA
Alfred J. Barbero, Redwood Valley, CA
John Beereboom, Davis, CA
Jon Blasquez, San Leandro, CA
P.H. Briggs, Beckville, TX
Carl brown, Leggett, CA
Irvin R. Brown, Ukiah, CA
Joseph Buffone, Fremont, CA
Dick Burcham, Kelseyville, CA
James A. Casey, Willits, CA
Peter Childs, Miranda, CA
Dave F. Corrington, Garberville, CA
R.D. Covington, Brooks, CA
Larry Day, Laytonville, CA
Kenneth R. Diamond, Leggett, CA
Gloria Duncan, Fairfax, CA
Volker, Eisele, St. Helena, CA
Jack Guggolz, Cloverdale, CA
John J. Hall, Redway, CA
Wallace Hardin, St. Helena, CA
John L. Hitchcock, Clearlake, CA
Alan R. Houser, Albany, CA
J. Marquis Jones, San Francisco, CA
Lee A. Keeling, Tulsa, OK
L. Lutz, Alhambra, CA

Coordination

Donald F. MacKensie, Talmage, CA
Amy Mazza, Reno, NV
Grant E. McClellan, Santa Rosa, CA
Eric J. McHuron, San Francisco, CA
Ada Merhoff, Davis, CA
Harry Metzger, Napa, CA
Charles W. Page, Rio Dell, CA
Will Palmer, Piercy, CA
Audre M. Radcliff, Portland, OR
David Raitt, Talmage, CA
James A. Roberts, Sacramento, CA
Bruce Ryan, Arcata, CA
John G. Synder, Boonville, CA
John W. Swanson, Berkeley, CA
Theodore Trichilo, Fortuna, CA
Philip VanSoelen, Sebastopol, CA
Milton E. Walker, Cloverdale, CA
Margo Wardlow, Cobb, CA
George W. Witget, lower Lake, CA
Walter C. Wilcox, Nice, CA
Samuel M. Winston, Jr., Eureka, CA
Dorothy Workley, Hopland, CA

## COMMENT LETTERS AND RESPONSES

Fifty-three letters were received by BLM, Ukiah District during the comment period (Table 3). In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1503.4), the comments received from July 2, 1980, to September 2, 1982, as well as the Governor's comments, and the responses to those comments are included on the following pages.

Substantive comments which presented new data, questioned facts or analyses, or commented on issues bearing on the DEIS were evaluated and given responses. Comments and related responses are identified by the letter number and the number of the comment within the letter.

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COMMENT LETTER # 1

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
~~WATER AND POWER RESOURCES SERVICE~~
Lake Berryessa Recreation Office
5520 Knoxville Road
Napa, California 94558

IN REPLY REFER TO: 773. LBRO-105

SEP -2 1982

Mr. Van W. Manning
District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940
Ukiah, CA 95482-0940

Dear Mr. Manning:

This is in response to your July request for comments concerning the Cedar Rough Wilderness study area. We have reviewed this proposal from several aspects as we see it from our office here at Lake Berryessa. We have the responsibility of managing the recreation resource at the lake. We were primarily interested in considering the impact an adjacent wilderness area might have on us and how this impact could be incorporated into our planning process in order to accommodate it. Our conclusions concerning this are described below.

While the Cedar Roughs area may be unique for one or two reasons, we cannot visualize it receiving heavy or even moderate visitor use. Extreme summer temperatures would preclude any extensive use during this period. Access from the Lake Berryessa side is primarily over private lands, thus it is probably inaccessible for most people who might be interested in visiting the area. As indicated in the report, only a few people may have interests in the area because of its unique vegetation composition, which includes one of the largest stands of Sargent Cypress in the country. There are really no other unique features attributed to this area other than personal solitude which one can realize when visiting the limited accessible spots.

Because of the above reasons we do not feel it will have any direct impact on us if the Cedar Roughs proposal is designated as a wilderness area or not.

Looking at it from economic and even a practical viewpoint, the Cedar Roughs area might best be designated as a natural area. If designation as a wilderness area increases administrative cost then it should definitely remain as is or classified as a natural area. Government costs must be continuously scrutinized to maintain reasonable costs in doing business. Available financing must go to those areas which are unique and receive heavy visitor use on a priority basis. The Cedar Roughs area certainly does not fall into this catagory.

HELP

Keep Lake Berryessa Clean

We would like to express our appreciation to you for letting us comment on this proposal. In all likelihood there will be little impact in the Cedar Roughs area for the next ten years and perhaps for the next twenty. This will probably be limited to a few deer hunters. If we can be of any additional assistance please contact us.

Sincerely yours,

Recreation Manager

COMMENT LETTER # 2

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, Ca 94105

Mr. Van W. Manning, District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940
Ukiah, CA 95482

AUG 27 1982

Dear Mr. Manning:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) titled PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CLEAR LAKE RESOURCE AREA. Our comments on this DEIS are enclosed.

We have reviewed the DEIS on both the environmental consequences of the proposed action and the adequacy of the environmental statement. EPA's comments on this DEIS have been classified as category LO-2. Definitions of the categories are provided by the enclosure. Our classification of this DEIS and the date of EPA's comments will be published in the Federal Register in accordance with our public disclosure responsibility under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on this DEIS and requests four copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement when filed with our Washington Office. If you have any questions, please contact Loretta Kahn Barsamian, Chief, EIS Review Section, at (415) 974-8188 or FTS 454-8188.

Sincerely yours,

John Wise

John Wise, Acting Director
Office of Policy, Technical and
Resources Management

Enclosures (2)

Water Quality Comments

2-1

1. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) should describe existing water quality conditions in both Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs).

2. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) does not provide sufficient information regarding water quality impacts for either WSA. The potential impacts to water quality both in the WSAs and downstream, in terms of State adopted and EPA approved water quality standards and beneficial uses, should be addressed in the FEIS for all alternatives.

   The potential impacts to water quality and water quality-dependent fisheries, wildlife and recreation as a result of erosion and discharges from mining, grazing and vehicle activities should be identified. This description should take into consideration the presence of site conditions (steep slopes, unstable soil types, etc.) which would lead to severe impacts if disturbed.

3. For the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA, we support the objectives stated in the DEIS under Alternative 2 (Partial Wilderness) to "protect the quality of Watersheds... [and] the whitewater character and recreation experience along Cache Creek." The FEIS should evaluate how well the various alternatives will meet this objective.

4. If significant degradation were possible under nonwilderness management we would support the All Wilderness alternative for the Cedar Roughs WSA and at a minimum, the Partial Wilderness alternative for the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA.

EIS CATEGORY CODES

Environmental Impact of the Action

LO—Lack of Objections

EPA has no objection to the proposed action as described in the draft impact statement; or suggests only minor changes in the proposed action.

ER—Environmental Reservations

EPA has reservations concerning the environmental effects of certain aspects of the proposed action. EPA believes that further study of suggested alternatives or modifications is required and has asked the originating Federal agency to reassess these aspects.

EU—Environmentally Unsatisfactory

EPA believes that the proposed action is unsatisfactory because of its potentially harmful effect on the environment. Furthermore, the Agency believes that the potential safeguards which might be utilized may not adequately protect the environment from hazards arising from this action. The Agency recommends that alternatives to the action be analyzed further (including the possibility of no action at all).

Adequacy of the Impact Statement

Category 1—Adequate

The draft impact statement adequately sets forth the environmental impact of the proposed project or action as well as alternatives reasonably available to the project or action.

Category 2—Insufficient Information

EPA believes that the draft impact statement does not contain sufficient information to assess fully the environmental impact of the proposed project or action. However, from the information submitted, the Agency is able to make a preliminary determination of the impact on the environment. EPA has requested that the originator provide the information that was not included in the draft statement.

Category 3—Inadequate

EPA believes that the draft impact statement does not adequately assess the environmental impact of the proposed project or action, or that the statement inadequately analyzes reasonably available alternatives. The Agency has requested more information and analysis concerning the potential environmental hazards and has asked that substantial revision be made to the impact statement.

If a draft impact statement is assigned a Category 3, no rating will be made of the project or action, since a basis does not generally exist on which to make such a determination.



RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 2

2-1 Water quality was determined not to be an issue on the Cedar Roughs WSA because there are no known water quality problems in that WSA and water quality would be affected essentially equally under the two alternatives (see page 7). For the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA the issue of water quality has been analyzed (see pages 5, 42, 59 and 64).

## COMMENT LETTER # 3

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—RESOURCES AGENCY EDMUND G. BROWN JR., GOVERNOR

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD—
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

3201 S STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95816
PHONE: (916) 445-0270

22 July 1982

District Manager
U.S. Bureau of
Land Management
Post Office Box 940
Ukiah, CA 95482-0940

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, CLEAR LAKE RESOURCE AREA, CEDAR ROUGHS WSA AND ROCKY CREEK-CACHE CREEK WSA, LAKE COUNTY

Our concern is the protection of water quality for beneficial uses. The alternatives under consideration are land use decisions which are not within our bailiwick.

However, we will require reports of waste discharge to be filed with our office for any proposed resource utilization projects such as mining, geothermal development, etc. The Regional Board also has the prerogative to designate certain conditions to areas where the discharge of certain types of waste will not be permitted (Section 13243 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act).

Please contact me at (916) 322-1594 if you have any questions.

Edwin E. Crawford

EDWIN E. CRAWFORD
Area Engineer

EEC:sb

cc: State Clearinghouse, Sacramento

## COMMENT LETTER # 4

Resources Building
1416 Ninth Street
95814
(916) 445-5656

Department of Conservation
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Forestry
Department of Boating and Waterways
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Water Resources

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR OF
CALIFORNIA

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Air Resources Board
California Coastal Commission
California Conservation Corps
Colorado River Board
Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission
Regional Water Quality Control Boards
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
Solid Waste Management Board
State Coastal Conservancy
State Lands Commission
State Reclamation Board
State Water Resources Control Board

AUG 2 0 1982

Mr. Stan Whitmarsh
Ukiah District Office
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 940
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Mr. Whitmarsh:

The State has reviewed the draft environmental impact statement, "Preliminary Wilderness Recommendations for the Clear Lake Resources Area", submitted through the Office of Planning and Research. This review, in accordance with OMB Circular A-95 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, was coordinated with the Air Resources Board, the State Lands Commission, the Native American Heritage Commission, and the Departments of Conservation, Fish and Game, Transportation, Boating and Waterways, Forestry, Water Resources, Parks and Recreation, Food and Agriculture, and Health Services.

The State supports the all wilderness alternative, Alternative 1, for both Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Alternative 1 would create a 7,200-acre Cedar Roughs Wilderness area and a 34,000-acre Rocky Creek/Cache Creek Wilderness Area.

Wilderness designation would protect not only the wilderness characteristics of the area, but also the unique botanical resources; black bear, bald eagle, and tule elk habitats; and whitewater boating.

The potential for mineral and energy exploration and development on the Public Lands in these WSAs is speculative at best, so any loss of the mineral and energy production would be minimal. Grazing would continue at existing levels.

Sincerely,

James W Burns

JAMES W. BURNS
Assistant Secretary for Resources

cc: State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(SCH No. 82030305)

COMMENT LETTER # 5

Resources Building
1416 Ninth Street
95814

(916) 445-5656

Department of Conservation
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Forestry
Department of Boating and Waterways
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Water Resources

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN
GOVERNOR OF
CALIFORNIA

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Air Resources Board
California Coastal Commission
California Conservation Corps
Colorado River Board
Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission
Regional Water Quality Control Boards
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
Solid Waste Management Board
State Coastal Conservancy
State Lands Commission
State Reclamation Board
State Water Resources Control Board

RECEIVED
SEP 15 10 56 AM '83
SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

SEP 14 1983

Mr. Ed Hastey
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Federal Office Building
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Hastey:

Thank you for your August 8, 1983 letter and copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Clear Lake Resource Area Wilderness Study Area. We also wish to thank you for the opportunity to again review and comment on the document and to present the state position concerning this matter.

Following a thorough review at the Agency level, it is believed the State of California interest is best served by supporting the adoption of Alternative 3 for the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area because there is a need to protect the whitewater characteristic and recreational experience in addition to the bald eagle wintering range along Cache Creek, and other characteristics associated with the wilderness type features of the area.

With regard to the Cedar Roughs Wilderness Study Area, it is our opinion that Alternative 2 which provides administrative protection for unique/sensitive plant communities for scientific observation and/or manipulation under controlled conditions without declaring the wilderness area is an acceptable alternative because Cedar Roughs is small in area, of marginal wilderness charcteristic, there is no demand for use, and little attractiveness for any other wilderness type of use. Alternative 2 is acceptable to the State since it does provide protection for unique habitats and plant communities without expensive management input.

Sincerely,

Gordon F. Snow, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary for Resources

COMMENT LETTER # 6


# NAPA COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FLORENCE W. CUNNY
County Clerk and Ex-Officio
Clerk of the Board

1195 THIRD STREET, ROOM 310
NAPA, CALIFORNIA 94558
AREA CODE 707/253-4386
☐ Please Reply to Box #880, Napa, Ca. 94558


August 17, 1982

Edwin G. Katto
Acting District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940
Ukiah, CA 95482-0940

Subject: BLM Draft EIS on Rocky Creek, Cache Creek WSA and Cedar Roughs WSA

Dear Mr. Katto:

We have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Clear Lake Resource Area wilderness recommendations. We believe your recommendations for no wilderness designation for the Cedar Roughs WSA in the County of Napa is not consistent with the Congressional goals of the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978 of "... creating parks and locating wilderness areas within close proximity of population centers". The Cedar Roughs WSA lies within reasonable driving times of the San Francisco-Sacramento Metropolitan areas. The EIR implies that off-road vehicle use of Cedar Roughs could be part of the management plan and would not have significant adverse impact. The facts are that: 6-1

1. The effect of runoff from ORV use, brush conversion, and geothermal programs could be detrimental to the Lake Berryessa eco-system. The surface water runoff will carry increased amounts of suspended and bedload sediments, nitrates, iron and other elements into Lake Berryessa. These items, expecially iron, could form the right combination to accelerate the natural aging process (eutrophication) of Lake Berryessa, according to Dr. Oswald of the University of California, Berkeley. 6-2

2. The desirable effects of euthrophication are the increase in the biomass and fishlife. This is fine in ponds designed for fish raising. But in water supply reservoirs, eutrophication has a number of undesirable effects, according to California Water Quality Control Board Studies.

3. The undesirable effects of high level of eutrophication are a lowering of property values, nuisance algae blooms, taste and odor problems in drinking water from the Lake, clogging of filters, odors from H 2 S (Hydrogren Sulfide) similar to rotten eggs and impaired fisheries or complete fish kills from lack of oxygen.


SAM CHAPMAN District No. 1 | W. L. (BILL) CHEW District No. 2 | DOWELL E. MARTZ District No. 3 | HAROLD MOSKOWITE District No. 4 | JOHN J. MIKOLAJCIK District No. 5




4. Further off-road vehicle areas are not needed. The off-road vehicle (ORV) use would create a severe erosion hazard and expase subsoils which could be subject to slumping and creeping in some areas. Also, use of scarce gasoline for recreation purposes reduces the amount available for higher priority needs.

5. Air pollution will result from dust and exhaust waste products such as carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, particulate matter, sulfur oxides, and/or photochemical oxidants.

6. Noise and traffic ingress and egress will have a major adverse impact on adjoining properties and increase the accident probability on the narrow and curvy portions of the access roads.

7. Fire hazard will be increased from vehicle usage and smoking.

Conclusions:

The no wilderness proposal is inconsistent with the following conclusions of your DEIR which indicates substantial facts favoring wilderness designation:

Vegetation - (Page 3-1, DEIS)

"The plant community on the Cedar Roughs WSA is dominated by Sargent cypress (Cupressus sargentil). Although Sargent cypress is a common species of California cypress, the stand on Cedar Roughs is unique both in character and expanse. It is noteworthy in size (over 5,000 acres) and species integrity. It represents an important reserve of relatively pure genetic material because it exhibits no sign of hybridization with McNab cypress, which is typical in other California cypress communities."

Assessing the opportunities for Solitude or Primitive Recreation Within a Day's Drive of Major Population Centers (Page 3-2, DEIS)

There are 9 designated wilderness areas, 30 recommended wilderness areas, and 44 wilderness study areas within 5 hours driving time of the standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSAs) that are a day's drive from the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA and the Cedar Roughs WSA. These two WSAs are closer to the San Francisco Bay Area than all but one existing or potential wilderness areas.

It should also be noted that a great deal of the wilderness areas accessible from the population centers are in high elevation zones with very short use seasons. Wilderness areas in the coast range south of Monterey are comparable in their patential use seasons."

Edw n G. Katto
Bu:eau of Land Management
August 17, 1982
Page 2
Sam Chapman/Dowell Martz

Balancing the Geagraphic Distributian of Wilderness Areas (Page 3-2, DEIS)

"The Cedar Roughs and Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSAs are in a regian where there are few wilderness areas. The coast range af Narthern Califarnia (i.e., the area narth af San Francisca and west of the Sacramento Valley) has three established wilderness oreas and three candidate areas that have been endarsed by the President. In additian, there are 9 BLM WSAs and 17 U.S. Farest Service areas classified far further study as possible wilderness areas. Several of the Farest Service areas are potential expansian units far twa existing USFS wilderness areas. Most of the units are in the narthern part of the caast range".

We support wilderness designatian.

Thank yau far the apportunity to camment.

Very truly yours,

Sam Chapman
Supervisar District One

Dowell Martz
Supervisar District Three

SC:DM:jw

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 6

6-1 Off-road vehicle use under the proposed action would not be of a general public nature. It would be limited to access for scientific or education purposes, requiring a permit, and would be under strict control, and limited to existing trails. No additional road construction is anticipated.

Easements across private land would have to be obtained for research access. Any public vehicle access will continue to be at the discretion of local landowners, who typically do not allow the public to cross their property to get to the WSA.

6-2 ORV use would be minimal as noted above. There are no plans for brush conversions or geothermal development in the Cedar Roughs WSA.

COMMENT LETTER # 7

# COUNTY OF YOLO

## Woodland, California 95695

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

First District - Clark H. Cameron
Second District - Robert N. Black
Third District - George P. DeMars
Fourth District - Betsy A. Marchand
Fifth District - Twyla Thompson

[redacted] 725 Court Street
Room 104, Courthouse
(916) 666-8407

August 31, 1982

Mr. Van W. Manning, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Post Office Box 940
Ukiah, California 95482

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Preliminary Wilderness Recommendations For the Rocky Creek - Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area

Dear Mr. Manning:

The Yolo County Board of Supervisors wishes to communicate to the Board certain concerns relative to the land management alternatives contained in the DEIS prepared for the Rocky Creek - Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area. This Board would also advise you that additional comments and recommendations will be forwarded to you subsequent to the September 1, 1982 deadline for inclusion in the final statement.

In evaluating both the environmental data and the alternative based on the summary of environmental consequences and resource trade-offs, this Board has attempted to correlate existing Yolo County planning policy as expressed in the Capay Valley Area General Plan and other land use planning policy adopted by this Board. None of the alternatives, as presented in the DEIS, achieve precise or exact consistency with local planning policy. The Board recognizes the balancing of material and environmental aesthetic values with potential recreation and limited development activities in the Cache Creek area. The Board is particularly concerned with the level of recreational activity that would be permitted under the values Bureau of Land Management alternatives, as well as projected water development projects (low head hydro), carefully mentioned resource productions in the Cache Creek Corridor, as well as the preservation of the aesthetic and other material attributes of these areas.

The Bureau, of course, is aware that the implementation of any one of the proposed management alternatives would not be combined in its long-term implications to the Bureau of land Management land alone. The impact of any of the proposed alternatives would either narrow or broaden this Board's ability to formulate land with policy in the Cache Creek corridor on private jurisdictional lands. It is our judgment, based on present input, that alternatives one and two

7-1





7-1 might severely restrict the Rocky Creek - Cache Creek area to the extent they would be inconsistent with the policy and designations of the Capay Valley Area General Plan and this Board would, therefore, be opposed to the adoption of alternative one or two as an appropriate level of resource management.

Alternative three is most generally consistent of all the proposals set forth in the DEIS; however, there are areas of inconsistency with proposed water development and recreation impacts, as well as service mining and reclamation projects in the Cache Creek corridor.

This Board will be transmitting additional information and recommendations to the Board in part based on additional staff input pertaining to the preferred alternatives for an appropriate level of resource management for the Rocky Creek - Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE P. DeMARS
Chairman

gjb

# COUNTY OF YOLO

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
292 West Beamer Street
Woodland, CA 95695

August 25, 1982

RECEIVED

AUG 25 1982

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Honorable George P. DeMars, Chairman
and Members of the Board of Supervisors

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Preliminary Wilderness Recommendation Rocky Creek-Cache Creek Wilderness Study Areas

Dear Chairman DeMars:

Pursuant to your Board's direction contained in Minute Order 82-526, a copy of which is attached, we have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for preliminary wilderness recommendations for the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek Wilderness Study Areas prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Staff's review included attendance at a public meeting in Woodland on August 2, 1982 held by the BLM to solicit comments on the Draft EIS. This report includes an analysis of general concerns based on Yolo County plan policies as set forth in the Capay Valley Area Plan and a review of the project alternatives proposed by the BLM.

The BLM project proposal and environmental analysis was evaluated in terms of consistency with the goals and policies contained in the Capay Valley Area General Plan. A copy of those goals and policies is attached to this report. In reviewing the goals and policies we noted that several pertain specifically to rafting and the expansion of recreational facilities on Cache Creek. Policy Number 3 on page 15 of the Capay Valley Plan relates specifically to confining and monitoring the development of recreational facilities along Cache Creek so that it does not expand beyond the present level of activity.

In addition to the concerns pertaining to recreational facilities along Cache Creek, the proposed opening of wilderness areas to trails and additional public access, as outlined by the BLM preferred alternative number 3, might induce service demands on law enforcement and fire service agencies. The draft EIS, on pages 4 through 7, cites studies projecting over 17,000 users rafting on Cache Creek. The source of this projection is not cited. It would be appropriate to verify the validity of that figure. 7-2

On pages 4 through 15 of the draft EIS, excerpts from the second draft of the Capay Valley General Plan are cited as the "Yolo County Land Use Plan". The wording of the second paragraph should be revised to state that this is an area plan specifically focusing on the Capay Valley and western Yolo County. The phrasing of the statements quoted from the second draft of the Capay Plan pertaining to watershed resources were deleted in the Board adopted Plan. Policy





Number 2, on page 15, of the Capay Plan now reads as follows: "Recreational activities, i.e., rafting, boating, tubing, and similar activities associated with Cache Creek downstream from Camp Haswell should not be encouraged." By extracting this superceded portion of the Capay Valley Area Ceneral Plan, the draft EIS tends to portray a less precise policy directive than was actually adopted by your Board.

In summary, the draft EIS's statements and observations relative to the goals and policies of the Capay Valley Area Plan are imprecise and partially out of context. The document should have made a clear statement of Yolo County's policy cencept of enhancement and preservation of watershed areas with a minimum of expansion of human activity, including the creation of hiking trails and the intrusion of mining or geotechnical exploration activities. 7-3

Alternate 3 in the draft EIS, which is the BLM preferred alternative for the designation of a portion of the Wilderness Study Area, does not accurately reflect the intent of the Capay Valley Plan in recognizing the entire watershed as being a resource to be protected and enhanced.

The draft EIS in the table on page 2-22 attached to this report sets forth four alternative designations for the two Wilderness Study Areas identified, the second being Rocky Creek and Cache Creek. This report presents a brief summary of implications of these alternatives and their consistency with established Yolo County planning policy. Alternative Number 1 would designate all 34,000 acres of the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area as Wilderness. This Wilderness designation would impose significant restrictions on all but the most passive types of land use. It would preclude any resource production with an area so designated and would therefore be inconsistent with the recognition in the Capay Valley General Plan of existing levels of recreational use along Cache Creek. This designation would also prohibit any future possibility of resource production activities in the designated area. Alternative Number 2 would designate some 19,250 acres as Wilderness and 14,750 acres reserved for resource production. This alternative would designate areas in Yolo County along Cache Creek as Wilderness generally following the same pattern as Alternative 1. The pattern of designation proposed in Alternative 2 would generally pose the same inconsistency with established County policy. Alternative 3 is entitled "Special Resource Protection" and would include some 6,640 acres designated as River Corridor, 11,150 acres designated Natural Area, which would be centered around botanical resources, and the remaining 16,210 acres identified as Resource Production, which would be susceptible to mining and geothermal exploration activities. 7-4

As stated earlier, Alternative 3 is the option which the BLM wishes to pursue at this point and which the environmental assessment focused on. The area along Cache Creek in Yolo County would be shown on this Plan as River Protection Corridor which would be in substantial conformity with the policies and goals of the Capay Valley Plan.

COUNTY OF YOLO
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
292 West Beamer Street
Woodland, CA 95695



7-5 Alternative Number 4 would be the no project alternative, or as titled in the draft EIS, "no action". This alternative would maintain existing designations over the entire 34,000 acres of the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area and similarly maintained existing Bureau policy with respect to management of the resources within this area. Current Bureau policy, as applied to this area, does not protect either Cache Creek nor the riparian corridor and the botanical areas that that includes. Resource extraction activities, located in either one of these areas, would be subject to environmental review by the Bureau and safeguards would be assured at the time of future development.

Parentheticaliy your Board should be aware that at the public hearing held in Woodland the substantial majority of the testimony given were members of the Sierra Club and other environmental groups from the Bay Area, as well as Sacramento. These groups overwhelmingly and in a concerted fashion supported Alternative 1, the all wilderness designation for the entire 34,000 acres of Rocky Creek-Cache Creek Study Area. There was a general theme in the testimony from the environmental groups of the necessity of protecting and enhancing the wilderness experience to be found in the chapparal, oak, woodland, and grassland savannas that predominate in this geographic setting.

Your Board should be informed that any comment or recommendation with respect to the adequacy and completeness of the draft EIS should be communicated to the BLM by September 1, 1982. It is our understanding that comments from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, the Fish and Game Advisory Committee, and the Public Works Department will also be furnished to the Board.

As stated in part earlier in this report, certain materials have been appended for your Board's reference. They are, in order, as follows: The Summary of Environmental Consequences and Resource Tradeoffs delineating the four proposed alternatives from the draft EIS, the description of those alternatives and explanation of the implications of the proposed land use designations, as well as a portion of the narrative text which is relevant to the issue of consistency with local planning policies. Also a memorandum containing the revised and adopted versions of certain policies from the Capay Valley General Plan and finally a letter from a member of the County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Very truly yours,

Ben Hulse gjb

JEFF L. B. (BEN) HULSE
Director

JLBH:gjb

Attachments



COUNTY OF YOLO

Robert A. Young
Director

Department of County Facilities
226 Fourth Street
Woodland, California 95695
(916) 666-8265

RECEIVED
AUG 19 1982
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

August 19, 1982

Honorable George P. DeMars, Chairman
& Members of the Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Min. Order #82-526 Rocky Creek - Cache Creek WSA

Dear Chairman DeMars:

In the interest of time, a subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee met to review the draft "Preliminary Wilderness Recommendations For The Clear Lake Resource Area".

The consensus was that Alternative 2, Partial Wilderness or Alternative 3, Special Resource Protection are the most acceptable proposals for the Rocky Creek - Cache Creek WSA.

Some of the objections expressed by the committee members included no wildlife protection in option #4 to restrictions on controlled burning in option #1. Options 2 and 3 provide some wilderness values.

If option number 3 is decided upon as proposed by the Bureau of Land Management, the committee asks the following questions:

7-6 1. If ORV's are to be restricted to access points in Natural Area and Cache Creek Corridor, where are these points and what steps are to be taken to prevent resource degradation?

7-7 2. If boating access to Cache Creek is to be enhanced, what steps are to be taken to minimize conflicts with private landowners?

7-8 3. What effects could water developments have on white-water boating opportunities from Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park down to Camp Haswell?

7-9 4. Taking into account the recommendation that "...recreational activity associated with Cache Creek should not be increased..." because of a lack of public services as addressed in the Capay General Plan, where will the additional police and fire protection come from if boating access to Cache Creek is to be enhanced?

7-10 5. What is the projected increase in recreational use of Cache Creek Regional Park?

7-11 6. What effect will river recreation developments have on whitewater rafting opportunities below the WSA?

Sincerely,

Earl Balch

Earl Balch, Sec.
Yolo County Parks and Recreational
Advisory Committee

EB:mm

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 7

7-1 Approximately 7,000 acres out of the total 33,582-acre WSA are in Yolo County. Current levels of grazing and mining activity within the WSA would be allowed to continue under the All Wilderness and Partial Wilderness Alternatives. Levels of these activities under the Proposed Action may increase somewhat. Recreational activities will not be affected under the first two alternatives, unless they involve use of motorized vehicles.

RESPONSE

We have reviewed your plan and compared it with the management actions we anticipate. We do not anticipate any conflicts, but will work closely with the County when implementing specific actions to make sure any possible conflicts are resolved.

7-2 The figure of 17,000 users is a projection by the Corps of Engineers in Whitewater Mitigation Study for the New Melones Lake. The projection is based on sampling of users in 1978. The actual use on Cache Creek is much less than this figure. It is estimated to be about 5,000 users per year.

7-3 See changes in text, page 70.

7-4 A wilderness designation does not totally preclude active resource production. Grazing is an existing use in Rocky Creek-Cache Creek, and mining is a permitted activity as long as claims are made prior to 1984, or prior to designation, whichever is later. Recreational use would not be affected, unless it involves use of motorized vehicles.

7-5 The Cache Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and the Northern California Chaparral Research Natural Area (NCCRNA) have been officially designated and notifications published in the Federal Register. These two portions of the WSA are currently being managed as an ACEC and/or RNA. The special features found here are currently protected by these designations.

7-6 Please see Response to Comment 42-1 and refer to Map 3.

7-7 All necessary easements would have to be obtained from the landowners before public access could occur.

7-8 There are currently no plans for any future hydroelectric development on Cache Creek within the WSA. A continuous water flow on Cache Creek is assured throughout the summer boating season because the water is necessary for agricultural uses in the Capay Valley. This would have no negative impacts on boating opportunities.

7-9 The increase in visitor use associated with improved boating access is not anticipated to be significant enough to warrant additional police and fire protection. The enhanced access referred to is at only one specific location, and this is in Lake County. Fire protection on BLM lands is contracted out to the California Department of Forestry.

7-10 With improved access in Lake County the recreational use of Cache Creek Regional Park (in Yolo County) might increase slightly. Boaters putting in at the Lake County access point would be floating an additional 14 miles on Cache Creek before they reach the point on the river (in Yolo County) where access for float trips is currently available but not convenient (rough road, steep climb, etc.). This point is 4 miles upstream from the County Park. Some boaters would complete their trips (here) before reaching the park. The others (probably less than 20 per year) would continue on to the park.

7-11 At this time the only foreseeable river recreation development planned is the improved access at the Lake County site. This will have the effect of more evenly dispersing boating use along Cache Creek, and may possibly result in smaller numbers of visitors concentrating in that area of the creek located within the Cache Creek Regional Park.

COMMENT LETTER # 8


# Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

P.O. BOX 1940
WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA 95695-1940
(916) 662-0265



Board of Directors
OLLIVER ORRICK
Woodland
CHARLES M. GORDON
Capay
CURTIS M. MILLER
Davis
L. H. BARTH
Madison
JOHN S. KIMURA
Woodland


August 30, 1982

Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940
Ukiah, California 95482-0940

Gentlemen:

Subject: Comments -- Draft EIS, Preliminary Wilderness Recommendations for the Clear Lake Resource Area

In view of the contacts our agencies have had over the years and due to the fact that the District has, for approximately 70 years, controlled the flows of Cache Creek during all seasons of the year -- which flows are the vital ingredient in any study of the resources of the area -- we find it difficult to understand your lack of prior contact with us in the early stages of the draft EIS preparation. Failure to send a copy of the draft document itself is even more curious. Because we have had no opportunity for input prior to this time, you will understand the rather blunt comments which follow.

With respect to the draft EIS, the District is opposed to Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 as outlined by BLM for management of land within its jurisdiction. These alternatives preclude or significantly impinge on the potential for the District to manage its water resources to serve the best interest of people in Yolo County and the State as well. In our opinion, the values and justification for adopting actions that preclude or restrict water resources development along Cache Creek are not properly evaluated.

Enumerated below are comments that relate to information presented in the draft EIS including Alternatives 1, 2, and 3:

8-1 1. The discussions that imply that boating opportunities and the whitewater character of Cache Creek would be maintained through a Wilderness or Special Resource designation can be very misleading to those having no knowledge of the area or the Cache Creek System. To suggest that the
8-2 Peninsula Hydroelectric Project would significantly alter boating opportunities is also very misleading. Properly dealt with it could enhance such opportunity.



8-1 There is no mention of the life-threatening boulders and rapids in Cache Creek immediately below the District's proposed diversion dam site. Further, the flow regime below Clear Lake Dam is not natural and the operation of Clear Lake Dam is not necessarily fixed. The District has the right to alter its operation so that boating may or may not be enhanced. The draft EIS should make this clear.

2. Reducing the elevation of the District's proposed diversion dam in order to avoid any impoundment on WSA, would reduce the average annual energy production from the Peninsula Hydroelectric Project by 3,300,000 kwh. This amount of electricity is sufficient to meet the needs of 440 housenolds. In terms of foregone revenues, the 3,300,000 kwh amounts to approximately $3,400,000 in present day values.

3. The draft EIS should put some dimension on the reach of Cache Creek being discussed, i.e., from Clear Lake Dam to Rumsey is approximately 27 miles.

8-3 4. Page 4-7, second paragraph, last line. Permission for access at Clear Lake Dam would only be provided by the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and not by the Yolo County Water Board. Although there is a Water Resources Board in Yolo County, they are an advisory group to the Board of Supervisors and have no jurisdiction or authority whatever.

In closing, it is the District's opinion that the energy production potential of the Peninsula Hydroelectric Project far outweighs any potential environmental impacts referenced in the draft EIR. The impacts on the Cache Creek environment and boating opportunities from the District's project are not evaluated, but addressed with general statements that imply greater significance than we feel is appropriate. Additionally, as has been stated to BLM and other resources agencies, the District is interested in working with BLM and others if a recreation plan is to be developed. Clearly, however, it must be understood that the District can obtain easements for its own access and facilities, but does not acquire easements or rights-of-way for the general public.

Sincerely,

James Eagan

James Eagan
District Manager

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 8

8-1 We did not intend to imply that under any of the alternatives BLM would have control of water levels in Cache Creek. We will coordinate fully with you as specific plans for the area are developed so that your water flow decisions can take into account resource needs within the WSA.

8-2 According to personal contacts made in February 1986 with Fran Borcalli (Consulting Engineer for Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District) and Roberson Humble (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), Yolo County has dropped plans for the Peninsula Project and any other hydroelectric development on Cache Creek within the boundaries of the WSA. Additionally the regulatory permit from FERC for the Peninsula Project has expired and was not renewed by Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

8-3 Change made. See page 47.

COMMENT LETTER # 9

Yolo County Resource Conservation District

BOX 135 • ZAMORA CALIFORNIA 95698 • PHONE (916) 662-2561 : 2037

August 31, 1982

Stan Whitemarsh
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 940
Ukiah, Ca. 95482

Re: EIS, Preliminary Wilderness Recommendations-Rocky Creek

Dear Mr. Whitemarsh:

The RCD has reviewed the above mentioned document and the following are our recommendations and comments.

9-1 The district Board of Directors agrees with your proposed designation of "Alternative Three" for the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area. However, the EIS did not adequately address recommendations for erosion and sediment control for existing and future land disturbance. Many of the existing firebreaks, roads and roadcuts are presently eroding at

9-2 excessive rates. As you know, erosion can result in reduced soil productivity, sedimentation problems and possible deterioration of water quality. A program of road closure and rehabilitation should be proposed for these problem areas. The RCD and our staff would be more than happy to assist you in the development of any such program.

Also if any additional mining, exploration or development is allowed in the future, provisions should be made for adequate resource protection from land disturbance. Erosion and sediment control plans should be required anytime the soil resource is to be disturbed.

If we can be of any further assistance to you or if you have any questions, please let us know. Thank you for the opportunity to review this EIS.

Sincerely,

Robert Moeller,
President

9-2

CONSERVATION • DEVELOPMENT • SELF-GOVERNMENT

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 9

9-1 The impacts of specific projects will be addressed in environmental assessments at the time the project is proposed.

9-2 Under the Preferred Alternative, major portions of the WSA would be completely closed to vehicle use or restricted for research purposes only. For a majority of Rocky Creek/Cache Creek WSA there is no available access. All recent firebreaks have been water barred and seeded to minimize erosion. Many of the roads and trails have filled in or are filling in with native vegetation.

COMMENT LETTER # 10

AtlanticRichfieldCompany 555 Seventeenth Street
Denver, Colorado 80217
Telephone 303 575 7577

J. R. Mitchell
Public Lands Coordinator

August 27, 1982

Mr. Van W. Manning
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 940
Ukiah, CA 95482-0940

Re: Preliminary Wilderness Recommendations
Clear Lake Resource Area - California

Dear Mr. Manning:

Atlantic Richfield Company appreciates the opportunity to present its comments on the Bureau of Land Management's preliminary recommendations for the Cedar Roughs and Rocky Creek-Cache Creek Wilderness Study Areas.

We support the BLM's recommendation for non-wilderness of both Cedar Roughs and Rocky-Creek/Cache Creek WSA's. However, we are extremely concerned with BLM's recommendation that Cedar Roughs WSA be designated a Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern and that portions of the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA will be designated a RNA/ACEC. We are concerned that such designations would inhibit any mineral development in these areas.

10-1 The Draft EIS and Study indicates that "there are no known mineral deposits with the Cedar Roughs WSA". However, in comments submitted to the Clear Lake Resource Area Manager, dated May 11, 1982, we stated that Cedar Roughs WSA has reported occurences of Chromium, and there is high geologic favorability for manganese, gold, silver, antimony, asbestos, and mercury. Our specific area of interest lies in the south half of T9N, R4W and the eastern half of T8N, R4W.

In addition, we commented that the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA has reported occurences of mercury and gold, and has high geologic favorability for antimony and silver. Our specific area of interest is in the southern half of T13N,R6W, which has been recommended for a RNA/ACEC.



The above geologic information can be found on the USGS Mineral Investigations Map Mr-48 of California (1971). Other sources utilized were the Mineral Resources of California #191 (1966) and the USGS Geologic Map of California (1966).

While an ACEC/RNA designation may not preclude mineral activities within these areas, we are concerned that such designations may provide for severe restrictions which would make the areas, in all practical terms, unavailable for mineral exploration and subsequent development. As previously mentioned, we believe both of these areas contain highly favorable geologic features for mineralization; and we urge the BLM to give these factors equal consideration when determining management guidelines for the areas.

In conclusion, we support the Bureau's preliminary recommendation that Rocky Creek-Cache Creek and Cedar Roughs WSA's are unsuitable for wilderness designations. However, we are opposed to designating part of Rocky Creek-Cache Creek area and the entire Cedar Roughs area as a RNA/ACEC. We believe that due to the mineral potential existing in these areas that they should be returned to an open land classification which will not inhibit or preclude mineral exploration and development activities.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to provide BLM with our comments. Please feel free to contact us should further discussion be necessary.

Sincerely,

J. R. Mitchell

J. R. Mitchell

CMM:drm

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 10

10-1 We concur that the geology of the WSA is generally "favorable" as stated. Nevertheless, there currently are no mining claims on the area and potential is considered speculative.

COMMENT LETTER # 11

# THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE FLORA

August 29, 1982

District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940
Ukiah, California 95482-0940

Dear Sir;

This letter is in regard to recommendations listed in the environmental impact statement for Cedar Roughs WSA and Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA. The Napa Chapter of California Native Plant Society is a local group of amateur and professional botanists who understand the importance in preserving these areas as valuable natural resources. Below are listed reasons why we disagree with the proposed actions for these two areas.

CEDAR ROUGHS WSA

The Napa Chapter of the Calif. Native Plant Society believes this area should be designated as ALL WILDERNESS. Reasons for this are:

11-1

1) Areas unaltered by mans development pressures are few in our region and need protection before they too are lost. This is the basic premiss on which the National Wilderness Preservation System was founded. Cedar Roughs show very little adulteration aside from an impassabel jeep trail.
2) The serpentine chaparral plant community is representative of North Coast Range flora and should be preserved for comparison to its sister community in Cold Canyon which represents a non-serpentine chaparal.
3) Opportunity for solitude is excellent with vistas open to all directions.
4) The Sargent Cypress forest represents the largest pure strand of its kind. It is unique because of its location on a ridgetop instead of the typical streamside or lowland habitat of this species. Portions of it compose a pygmy forest.
5) Possible usage of this area for power transmission lines would lead to destruction of fragile soils and weed infestation to this otherwise pristine plant community.
6) There is an abundance of flowering plants blooming in masses well into the summer. Protection would be afforded for CNPS rare and endangered species including: Hesperolinum brewerii, Hesperolinum bicarpellatum, and Fogopyne douglasii ssp. parviflora . There are also several CNPS rare plants including: Collomia diversifolia, Cryptantha hispidula, Navarretia jepsonii, and Senecio cleveland ii. Other rare plants not personally encountered are listed in the Appendix as lack of time has prevented a thorough study of the total area involved.
7) Fire ecology can be viewed in the waves found in the forest along the ridges.
8) Proximity to major population centers about San Francisco and Sacramento creates recreational opportunities for a large number of people.

ROCKY CREEK-CACHE CREEK WSA

The Napa Chapter of the Calif. Native Plant Society believes that this area should be designated Partial Wilderness (Alternative 2) with addition of Little Blue Ridge, Sections 3, 10, 11, 14, 15, 22, 23. Reasons for this are:

11-1

1) Recreation opportunities in this area are many including whitewater rafting, fishing, hiking, nature observation in a pronitive landscape.
2) Prevention of habitat disturbance should be insured to preserve a national symbol, the bald eagle along with the rare prairie falcon. Other non-game mammals requiring large undisturbed ranges would likewise benefit.
3) This region is already known and utilized by many recreation and naturalist clubs because of its many outstanding qualities. Disturbance of outlying areas and river development would degrade these qualities.
4) The large area of serpentine chaparral found in the WSA is important because it is not protected in any other WSA. There is an abundance of rare plant species found in the area. Lack of time has prevented a full survey of the area but a study done a short distance south of the Little Blue Ridge revealed 25 rare species. These are listed in the Appendix. These known resources should be protected over undetermined mineral assets. Mining of gold, a non-essential mineral, has not proven to be cost-effective outside of the proposed Homestake mining operation in northeast Napa County.
5) ORV activity should be strongly regulated if not prohibited to insure the undisturbed atmosphere in the WSA.

Sincerely,

Jake A. Ruygt
Conservation Coordinator

APPENDIX

CEDAR ROUGHS--Other possible species

CNPS Rare and Endangered
- Helianthus exilis

CNPS Rare
- Astragalus breweri
- A. clevelandii
- Delphinium uliginosum
- Fritillaria purdyi

ROCKY CREEK-CACHE CREEK--Probable species

CNPS Rare and Endangered
- Arabis modesta
- Eriogonum nervulosum
- Helianthus exilis
- Hesperolinum breweri
- H. drymarioides
- Juglans hindsii
- Lotogyne douglasii ssp. parviflora
- Streptanthus morrisonii

CNPS Rare
- Antirrhinum virga
- Astragalus breweri
- A. clevelandii
- Calyptridium quadripetalum
- Collomia diversifolia
- Cryptantha hispidula
- Delphinium uliginosum
- Fritillaria pluriflora
- F. purdyi
- Hesperolinum bicarpellatum
- Lepidium latipes
- Lomatium ciliolatum var. hooveri
- Malacothamnus helleri
- Mimulus nudatus
- Navarretia jepsonii
- Senecio clevelandii
- Thelypodium brachycarpum

CNPS proposed Rare and Endangered
- Madia hallii
- Orobanche vallida

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 11

11-1 Despite all your reasons listed for wilderness designation, we still feel that overall the Cedar Roughs and Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSAs do not possess obviously outstanding wilderness characteristics. We maintain that their wilderness characteristics overall are marginal; therefore, in our judgment the area does not merit wilderness designation.

COMMENT LETTER # 12

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
MILO BAKER CHAPTER

616 Hahman Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
September 1, 1982

VIOLA BAKERI

Van W. Manning
District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 940
Ukiah, California 95482

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Clear Lake Resource Area

Dear Mr. Manning:

We have reviewed the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Clear Lake Resource Area and wish to make the following comments:

Cedar Roughs WSA: In view of the presence of the unique "pure" stand of Cupressus Sargentii (Sargent Cypress) which covers approximately 72% of the wilderness study area, and a minimum of other conflicting land uses, we are of the opinion that the Alternative 1 designation "All Wilderness" would provide the most adequate protection of the Cedar Roughs WSA.

Rocky Creek-Cache Creek: Although the ideal environmentally protective designation for this study area would be Alternative 1, "All Wilderness", we recognize that the economic resource potential is very evident in many areas of this study area. Therefore, we believe the Alternative 2 designation "Partial Wilderness" would provide the best balance between the two conflicting land uses, resource production and sensitive habitat protection.

In addition, we would like to call your attention to the lack of specific data on rare and endangered plant species in the vegetation sections of the DEIS. Presumably, allotted field search time was insufficient to complete an inventory of these species, considering the size of the study areas.

12-1 Although specific recorded rare plant data is lacking for the wilderness study areas, this does not necessarily indicate a lack of rare plant species in those areas; rather, it is indicative of a lack of early botanical exploration. Several known rare plant sites in similar habitat types are located outside the study boundaries. These species are also likely to be found within the study area by botanical field search conducted at the optimum blooming season for each of the suspected species.

As an accurate categorical land use designation is difficult to determine without



a thorough inventory of the contents of the study areas, we suggest that botanical field research be continued throughout the remaining phases of the environmental review and designation process, the resulting information to be included in the final impact statement (FEIS) and/or subsequent documents. This is particularly necessary in the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA where environmentally detrimental land use changes are anticipated.

In no instance should any land use change which conflicts with the environment be permitted prior to a field search for rare and endangered plant species.

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on this document. If we may be of further assitance, please contact us.

Sincerely yours,

Betty L. Lovell, Chairman
Conservation and Rare Plant Committees
Milo Baker Chapter
California Native Plant Society

cc: Phil Van Soelen, Chapter President
Jean Jenny, Public Lands Representative CNPS

---

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 12

12-1 Rare plant species very likely could occur in the Rocky Creek/Cache Creek WSA. No intensive inventories have yet been done. However this would be one of the anticipated research activities under our Preferred Alternative, which includes the Northern California Chaparral Research Natural Area.

COMMENT LETTER # 13

August 16, 1982

Mr. Van W. Manning
District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940
Ukiah, CA 95482-0940

Dear Mr. Manning,

I wish to amend my comments made at the August 2 hearing in Woodland concerning Cedar Roughs and Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA's. At the hearing I indicated that I supported alternative 1 - all wilderness designation for both WSA's. Support for the all wilderness alternative alternative for both WSA's is now the official position of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, which has retroactively authorized my testimony to represent their official position at the public hearing. Please amend the hearing record to show that my testimony was given as a representative of this group. Thank you,

Sincerely,

Glen Holstein
Sacramento Valley Chapter
California Native Plant Society

COMMENT LETTER # 14

Defenders OF WILDLIFE

September 1, 1982

District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940
Ukiah, CA 95482-0940

Dear District Manager:

Defenders of Wildlife wishes to submit this letter as our comments and recommendations with respect to BLM's draft environmental impact statement pertaining to the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and the Cedar Roughs WSA.

We greatly disagree with BLM's "No Wilderness" proposed actions for these two WSAs. We believe both WSAs contain important wildlife and other natural values, as well as excellent opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, which amply qualify them for wilderness classification. Indeed, both areas deserve and need wilderness protection.

We strongly support, and urge BLM to fully implement, Alternative I for full wilderness designation of both WSAs.

Thank you very much for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Richard Spotts
California Field Representative
Defenders of Wildlife

5604 Rosedale Way
Sacramento, CA 95822
(916) 442-6386

RS/bc

1244 NINETEENTH STREET, NW • WASHINGTON, DC 20036 • (202) 659-9510

COMMENT LETTER # 15

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY
650 CALIFORNIA STREET · 9TH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94108

CABLE HOMESTAKE
TELEPHONE (415) 981-8150

August 17, 1982

Van W. Manning
District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 940
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Mr. Manning: Re: Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA DEIS

Homestake Mining Company, a California corporation, is presently engaged in the development of a major gold discovery near the junction of Lake, Napa, and Yolo Counties. As noted in Chapter 4 (page 4-8), this development, known as Homestake's McLaughlin Project, is located near the southern boundary of the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA.

We have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the wilderness recommendation for Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA and wish to submit the following comments:

1. The Study Area is one of complex geology and mineralization, and mining has occurred in and around the area for over one hundred years.

15-1 2. Homestake's discovery re-emphasizes the potential for mineral development that exists in the general area. Because specific data is lacking to assess this potential, access for geological exploration and mineral development activities should be recognized uses in any management plan adopted by the Bureau.

3. Homestake supports the Bureau's proposed action, Alternative 3 No Wilderness with special resource protection, as a reasonable approach to balanced, multiple-use management by allowing mineral resource development while protecting other unique resource values.



We appreciate having this opportunity to comment on the proposed action.

Very truly yours,

David B. Crouch
Corporate Manager
Environmental Affairs

DBC:mmb

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 15

15-1 Significant portions of the WSA are currently covered by gold mining claims and are open for exploration activities, subject to certain stipulations.

COMMENT LETTER # 16

MINERALS
EXPLORATION
COALITION

PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS:

P. O. Box 15638
Denver, Colorado 80215

August 18, 1982

District Manager
Ukiah District Office
P. O. Box 940
Ukiah, California 95482

Dear Sir:

This letter constitutes the written comments of the Minerals Exploration Coalition (MEC) on the draft environmental impact statement on wilderness recommendations for the Clear Lake Resource Area. The MEC represents mineral exploration companies and individuals conducting hard mineral exploration on federal land.

16-1 In view of the fact that wilderness areas designated after December 31, 1983 will be withdrawn from appropriation under the mining and leasing laws, we believe that all areas with mineral and energy potential should be excluded from wilderness designation, even though no economic deposit is now known. The withdrawal limitations will preclude collection of new data and new areas of mineral potential will not be found. With new discoveries effectively stopped, the policy of excluding all currently known mineral potential from wilderness should be followed, so that exploration of these areas will not be restricted and minerals might yet be produced. Explorationists tend to look at the long term because the lead time of discovery may be ten to fifteen years. The impact of wilderness on minerals should be assessed over the long term (a century or more). We believe that land use decisions should be in conformity with the policies statements made in the National Minerals Program Plan and Report to Congress released by the President in April.

Rocky Creek - Cache Creek and Cedar Roughs

Both of these WSA's have good mineral and energy potential. Of particular interest are the critical minerals mercury, asbestos, and chromite, and the energy resources. We believe these potential resources need to be explored, and

790 WEST TENNESSEE AVE., SUITE 103 • DENVER, COLORADO 80223 • (303) 722-2235



support the preferred alternative of recommending no wilderness for both of the areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft environmental statement.

Sincerely,

MINERALS EXPLORATION COALITION

John D. Wells

John D. Wells
Managing Director

JDW/mh

---

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 16

16-1 Wilderness Areas will not be withdrawn from appropriation under the mining and leasing laws until after December 31, 1983, or the actual date of designation, whichever is later. New data can still be collected until this later date. Virtually all lands have some form or another of mineral or energy potential. What you are effectively saying then is that there should be no wilderness anywhere.

The mineral potential for Cedar Roughs WSA is very minimal at best, according to the latest available data. The potential for energy and mineral resources in the Rocky Creek/Cache Creek WSA is somewhat better, yet still speculative.

COMMENT LETTER # 17

# PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

77 BEALE STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94106 • (415) 781-4211 • TWX 910-372-6587

J. W. PAGE
MANAGER
LAND DEPARTMENT

July 28, 1982

Mr. Van W. Manning
District Manager-Ukiah
Bureau of Land Management
Post Office Box 940
Ukiah, California 95482-0940

Dear Mr. Manning:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company appreciates the opportunity to comment on the DEIS-preliminary Wilderness Recommendations for the Clear Lake Resource Area. As you are aware, BLM lands are extensive throughout our service area. Consequently, we review with great interest any proposed federal land management agency policies, regulations, and plans affecting our ability to serve our customers in an efficient, reliable manner.

We support the proposed action for Cedar Roughs WSA (Alternative 2: no wilderness) and Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA (Alternative 3: no wilderness). These alternatives are consistent with national priorities of protection of unique environmental characteristica and increased domestic energy production.

If you have any question concerning our comments, please call Mike Ingram at (415) 541-5683.

Sincerely,

MPIngram:MZ

COMMENT LETTER # 18

# SIERRA CLUB - REDWOOD CHAPTER

P. O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95402

9 Aug 1982

District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 940
Ukiah, Calif. 95482-0940

Attn: Mr. Van W. Manning

Subject: Sierra Club response to BLM Draft Environmental Statement of July 82 for Cedar Roughs WSA and Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA.

Dear Mr. Manning:

1. The following comments about the subject WSAs refer to numbered pages and maps in the draft EIS.

A. Cedar Roughs WSA

18-1 The Sierra Club strongly recommends wilderness designation for Cedar Roughs. The rationale for the "No Wilderness Alternative" presented on page 2-17 makes an unconvincing argument. It includes smallness which is not a wilderness criterion. The 7000 acre WSA is, however, 40% larger than the 5000 acre minimum requirement. The claim of "marginal wilderness characteristics" appears to contradict the EIS inventory of desireable features. Namely multiple resource benefits of protection of watershed, wildlife habitat and natural and unique plant communities. It is an area of coast-range vegetation in pristine condition in an attractive and scenic setting. In fact, close examination of BLM and other observations makes Cedar Roughs appear to epitomize an area suitable for wilderness designation.

The EIS also states that there is "currently no demand" for uses for Cedar Roughs. This stems from its remote nature and lack of public awareness. Reasonable trail-head improvements and posting would certainly increase use and demonstrate demand, as will increasing population. The suitability of the area for fall, winter and spring hiking is a unique and valuable asset.

Cedar Roughs would add much needed diversity to the National Wilderness Preservation System. This coupled with its close proximity to large population centers argues clearly and powerfully for its designation as "All Wilderness" (Alternative 1).

B. Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA

Alternative 2, as described on pages 2-6 and 2-11 Rocky Creek-Cache Creek map 2-4, appears to be a reasonable compromise between resource production and wilderness, particularly in view of the complexity of this region and the factors presently affecting it.

18-2 The Club believes that the addition of Harley Gulch, Jack Canyon and Stemple Canyon would add greatly to such a core area as would the northern portion of the Little Blue Ridge and upper Davis Creek. The Langs Peak and Perkins Creek deletions would

18-3 not subtract significantly from a finally adopted plan. The acquisition of public lands in the Kennedy Flats and Wilson Valley areas would make a more contiguous and manageable area.

Much importance is placed on problems surrounding Geo Thermal, oil and gas leases and mining claims ("RATIONALE" page 2-17). However if BLM acquired these highly speculative leases as indicated under Alternative 2 and proceeded with the balance of the wilderness process the principal remaining mining claims would appear to be for gold as shown on Map 4-3. There is no certainty that these claims will ever be developed and, if so, that the effects of such development might not be subject to mitigation.

18-4 Also there is a possibility of legislation to prevent such activity in wilderness at some future time. Meanwhile the entire area would be protected if classified as wilderness.

Also on page 2-17 comments refer to "marginal wilderness characteristics". While the presence of roads in the area has produced some damage, large areas are in excellent condition and under active BLM management the whole area could be returned to an acceptable primitive state. Certainly the wide variety of vegetation and diversity of terrain form an area of great interest and potential.

Fall, winter and spring hiking coupled with considerable variation of coastal mountain terrain and vegetation make this area unique. Its proximity to population centers adds a strong reason to add it to the National Wilderness System. The addition of Cache Creek as a whitewater stream would preserve a diminishing commodity for that system.

We believe that the combination of wilderness values from rare Serpentine chaparral to wide beautiful panoramas, from hundreds of fine clear creeks to lovely pine flats, from a wild and scenic whitewater river to Tule elk grazing on the highlands is a combination which must be preserved in spite of the complexity of the task. To assign wilderness status to this area now will reflect upon our finer instincts and represent a continuing national asset for our nation's future.

Sincerely,

Damien Custer

Damien Custer
Chairman
Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club

. . . To explore, enjoy and preserve the nation's forests, waters, wildlife, and wilderness . .

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 18

18-1 Cedar Roughs WSA is actually 5,597 acres in size, not 7,183 acres as reported in previous drafts of this document. There has been no change from the original WSA boundary; this was simply a mathematical error on our part. With this corrected acreage figure, Cedar Roughs still meets the minimum size requirements for a WSA. The relative "smallness" of this WSA had no bearing whatsoever on our Preferred Alternative. The Proposed Action was chosen because in our opinion there are no "outstanding" opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. We maintain that the wilderness characteristics are marginal.

18-2 The newer Partial Wilderness Alternative includes all the areas you mentioned which should be added to a "core area."

18-3 The private lands in Wilson Valley have been acquired by BLM and efforts are currently under way to acquire additional lands along Cache Creek within the WSA.

18-4 Any valid existing mining rights would be allowed to continue after wilderness designation, subject to the restrictions of the Wilderness Management Policy, which prohibits any unnecessary and undue degradation.

COMMENT LETTER # 19

Golden Bear Nugget  Placer County, Calif.

HE CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.

August 31, 1982

District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940
Ukiah, California 95482 -0940

Re: Clear Lake Resource Wilderness Study Area.

(1) Cedar Roughs;
(2) Rocky Creek and Cache Creek.

On Saturday August 28, 1982, these study areas were brought before the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies - Public Lands Advisory Committee for an indepth study. After several hours of study and much discussion we came to the conclusion that neither of these areas is suitable for wilderness.

On Sunday August 29, 1982, This was brought before the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies full convention; 196 clubs--14,000members. After much discussion, it was voted to recommend all of these (2) parcels be kept under multiple use.---NO WILDERNESS.

The reasons are:
(1) High geothermal potential;
19-1 (2) Too many critical minerals;
19-2 (3) Too many active and inactive mines;
19-3 (4) Too much private property;
19-4 (5) Too many active and inactive roads in these areas;
19-5 (6) There are no indangered species--plants or animals in this area.

Clarence Balch
California Federation of Mineral Societies
Public Lands Advisory Committee
19051 Pine Tree Lane
Fort Bragg, CA., 95437

Clarence Balch

DEDICATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT AND ENJOYMENT OF THE EARTH SCIENCES

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 19

19-1 Geothermal potential according to all available data is very low.

19-2 There is only one mine site within Rocky Creek/Cache Creek and it is inactive. There is no mining activity within Cedar Roughs.

19-3 Please see Response to Comment 31-2.

19-4 The majority of these roads either have no public access or are driveable only by all-terrain vehicles.

19-5 Bald Eagle (a federally and state-listed endangered species) occurrence has been thoroughly documented on Cache Creek for at least ten years. In 1986, BLM is completing the second year of a two-year intensive study on Bald Eagle use of the Cache Creek drainage. As many as 60 Bald Eagles have been observed in the WSA by helicopter surveys (January 1985).

The endangered American Peregrine Falcon is known to occasionally forage in portions of the two WSAs.

COMMENT LETTER # 20

the Northcoast Environmental Center

August 18, 1982

Wan A. Manning
District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940
Ukiah, CA 95482-0940

Dear Mr. Manning:

After review of the DEIS for the Cedar Roughs and Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA's, the Northcoast Environmental Center appeals that you change your preliminary recommendation from non-wilderness to wilderness status for both areas. The significant issues involved in determining the suitability for wilderness designation are discussed below for each WSA.

CEDAR ROUGHS WSA

20-1 By the standards set to evaluate the wilderness values of a WSA - naturalness, solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, special features, diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and geographic considerations - the Cedar Roughs WSA is eminently suitable for inclusion in the NWPS.

While it is stated in the DEIS that "there are few opportunities for primitive and unconfined forms of recreation (because) the uniform vegetation cover and mild topography do not offer interest and challenge for most users", two things must be noted. First of all, the lack of lakes, streams and "sport wildlife" (we assume that you mean by "sport", those wildlife species which are hunted down and shot), does not necessarily mean lesser wilderness values. The key words here are primitive and unconfined; there are many other types of recreation than fishing and hunting for which this WSA is appropriate, including cross-country hiking and orienteering, bird and animal watching, botanizing, etcetera. All of these offer interest and challenge to the wilderness visitor.

Secondly, recreational opportunities are, in our view, the least important requirement for a designation of wilderness; other criteria such as naturalness and biological, geographic and geological diversity are much more important.

20-2 There are three main reasons given in the DEIS for the proposed recommendation of non-wilderness for Cedar Roughs; 1) it is "small and has few recreational opportunities", 2) it "has little attractiveness or other wilderness type values (marginal wilderness characteristics)", and 3) "there is currently no demand for resources or uses."

1091 H ST ARCATA, CA 95521
(707) 822-6918 (KEEP TRYING

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The issue of recreational opportunities is discussed above. As for smallness, this roadless area would not have even been designated as a WSA if it did not meet the minimum qualifications for size.

The second rationale is similar to the first in terms of "attractiveness". The "marginal wilderness characteristics" statement is directly refuted by the text of the DEIS (see pages 3-1, 3-2, 3-6, and 4-1 to 4-5).

The third rationale for exclusion of this area as wilderness, because "there is no demand for resources", seems ludicrous, for demands for resource use have no bearing on the suitability of an area for inclusion in the wilderness system. A wilderness recommendation should based on an areas merits as a wild area, not on imminent developement possibilities. The idea is to preserve wilderness before it is developed. If we want to have a balanced wilderness system,we must designate some areas that are not alpine mountains or "worthless" for other resource demands. Besides, to recommend non-wilderness status for Cedar Roughs because "there is no demand for resources" and then recommend non-wilderness for Rocky Creek-Cache Creek because of "significant resource demands" is a no-win situation. Just what resource demand balance are you looking for?

ROCKY CREEK-CACHE CREEK WSA

Again, those values that determine the suitability of an area for designation as wilderness - naturalness, solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, special features, diversity in the system, and geographic considerations - all show that Rocky Creek-Cache Creek would be a fine addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System. This is especially true for special features and diversity value of this WSA, as noted by the presence of Tule Elk, Bald and Golden Eagles, Prairie Falcons and representives of a number of vegetation types including serpentine scrub.

20-3 The three main reasons given in the DEIS for not recommending this WSA as wilderness are 1) it has "no special features and limited recreational value", 2)there are state and private inholdings in the WSA, and 3) there are mining claims and energy leases in the WSA.

As for the first rationale, again we point out that recreation is in the eye of the beholder. And again, the text of the DEIS clearly indicates the great special features and other wilderness values of the WSA (see pages 3-2 to 3-4, 3-6, and 4-5 to 4-8).

20-4 As concerns state and private inholdings, it was never demonstrated as quoted on page 3-5 that "the state is concerned that (their lands) remain available for developement". On the contrary, it is our experience that the state has always been cooperative when it comes to land use planning, and would probably be willing to designate their inholdings as state wilderness lands.

While private inholdings could present a problem in management, it must be emphasized that these lands represent only 1½% of the WSA and are presently undeveloped. You should remember that Congress has in the past designated wilderness areas and national parks with much more significant and highly developed inholdings. Also, it might be possible for B.L.M. to purchase these lands outright, thus completely solving this "problem".

20-5 Finally, the issue of mining claims and energy leases is not sufficient to warrant exclusion of this WSA from the wilderness system. First of all, there are plenty of wilderness areas that had mining claims within their boundaries when created, or have subsequently been claimed. Also, in this particular case,

3.

there is great doubt that large-scale surface mining would be allowable due to the presence in the area of Bald Eagles, a federally listed Endangered Species.

20-6 As concerns energy leases, the DEIS states that "indications are that geothermal applications are highly speculative and will not actually be acquired. The oil and gas leases are also considered very speculative". As also stated in the DEIS, B.L.M. could buy out these leases to protect wilderness and wildlife values. Again, the incompatibility of energy developement with maintenance of critical winter habitat of Bald Eagles is obvious.

In summary, because these two WSA's are the only potential wilderness areas in the Clear Lake Resource Area, have unique vegetation and wildlife values which are not represented in the wilderness system, are in close proximity to large urban areas, and have been found to meet the criteria of suitability for wilderness designation, we urge you to change your recommendation and support alternatives #1 for both WSAs as wilderness areas. After all, it is your responsibility to meet the spirit of the 1964 Wilderness Act and "secure for the American people... the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

Sincerely,

Dwain Goforth
for the Northcoast
Environmental Center

cc: Senator Alan Cranston
Senator S.I. Hayakawa
Congressman Donald Clausen
Edward Hastey, B.L.M. State Director



RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 20

20-1 See response to Comment 11-1, page 95.

20-2 See changes, page 9.

20-3 See changes, page 10.

20-4 A letter from E.W. Chatfield of the State Lands Commission dated April 8, 1982, states that "if the WSA is approved for wilderness status it is our position that the school lands trust under which these lands were acquired by the State would be jeopardized."

20-5 The presence of mining claims and energy leases was not the only factor used in evaluating wilderness suitability. Several wilderness characteristics were studied when evaluating the potential of each WSA being designated wilderness. These characteristics were naturalness, solitude, opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and any special features found in the WSA. These all add up to a definition of the wilderness resource. Overall, we felt the wilderness characteristics were not "outstanding."

20-6 There are no geothermal leases in the WSA, just lease applications. BLM could buy out existing and future energy leases. However, no such management action is proposed (see pages 17 to 27) because development potential is very low.

COMMENT LETTER # 21

2422 Old Sonoma Rd
Apt 36 Napa, Ca. 94558
August 7, 1982

Dear Sir

I really believe it vital to the community of Napa County to have a wilderness area for relaxation and get all the wildlife animals and plants that may be close to us. I recommend that Eldridge Roughs and Rocky Creek-Cache Creek be established as wilderness areas for the benefit of many people not for just a few. I sincerely hope this will be granted. I as a member of National Wildlife Federation believe we must save all wilderness areas as possible. Would like to hear how this project develops?

Thank You

David Arnold

COMMENT LETTER # 22

John W. Barr, M. D.
1 La Espiral
Orinda, California 94563

28 August, 1982

District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940
Ukiah, California

Dear Sir:

I am writing concerning the Draft EIS for the Cedar Roughs WSA & the Rocky Creek - Cache Creek WSA. My family & I support Alternative I for both wilderness study areas in contrast to the recommended alternatives. The EIS provides no substantial reasons for omitting these areas from wilderness status. They have excellent wilderness values including unique vegetation (the Cedar Roughs WSA contains the largest known pure genetic source of Sargent cypress in wilderness areas), naturalness, chaparral features which are underrated & underrepresented in the wilderness system (the Rocky Creek - Cache Creek WSA would provide the only major representation in the wilderness system of this typical coastal plant community, surpassing chaparral) & habitat for sensitive wildlife species.

One must not forget that wilderness basically means untouched by human hands. These two areas lack roads & development & are good opportunities for solitude, even though that our society sorely needs little of the natural beauty of our state & country persists on account of the paramount apparent of our the recreational interests. Once lost [illegible] of this beauty in that special place cannot will be able to replace it. The natural beauty of our state.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely yours,
John W. Barr

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COMMENT LETTER # 23

Aug. 30, 1982

Dear Sirs.

Due to the unique environmental character of the Cedar Roughs area, I strongly support designating this natural resource area as natural wilderness.

Sincerely yours

Anthony A. Cerar
1428 Hudson Ave.
St. Helena, CA
94574

COMMENT LETTER # 24

Aug. 30, 1982

Dear Sirs.

Due to the unique environmental character of, and scarcity of wild areas left, I strongly recommend that the Rocky Creek Cache Creek area be designated as Wilderness area.

Sincerely yours

Anthony A. Cerar
1428 Hudson Ave.
St. Helena, CA
94574

COMMENT LETTER # 25

District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 940, Ukiah Ca

Sir:

I have recently reviewed background information concerning the application for Wilderness status two areas either in or adjacent to Napa County. I am familiar with both the Rocky Creek - Cache Creek and Cedar Roughs areas and urge your support for both areas gaining Wilderness status. Napa County is on the perimeter of the greater Bay Area, a geographical area that is increasing in size, population and pollution as development continues its spread across the landscape. Areas of Wilderness preservation are precious to those of us who treasures moments of solitude and tranquility in a sea of turbulence and activity. Wilderness areas are nourishment for the spirit and soul of man, a place to regenerate oneself for the challenges of life. Areas of tranquility and peace are disappearing under the pressure of growth and expansion.

By your actions you may preserve a wilderness area for my children and hopefully my children's children to enjoy and gain self nourishment.

I strongly urge your approval of these sites.

Dan Cornelio
2541 Dorset St
Napa, Ca 94558
(707) 255 8276

COMMENT LETTER # 26

Dear Sir,

I support the designation of the Cedar Roughs Wilderness Study Area and the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA as Wilderness Areas. In addition to being beautiful areas, these are also important places for bald eagle winter habitat and black bear breeding grounds, and therefore are worth protecting. Thank you for your time.

Debbie Conzyn
1713 Poplar Lane
Davis CA 95616

COMMENT LETTER # 27

July 20th, 1982

District Manager, Ukiah District
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940, 555 Leslie St.
Ukiah, California 95482

Dear District Manager,

It is my opinion that the Cedar Roughs Wilderness Study area and the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area are NON SUITABLE for Wilderness Area designation. Please include my comments with the draft environmental impact statement, showing my preferred alternative as NO WILDERNESS.

More than enough acreage has been taken out of general use by making it Wilderness. Wilderness area becomes unavailable for use by the majority, and nearly a private preserve for the minority.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Cullen

Thomas J. Cullen
523 Corbitt Drive
Burlingame, CA 94010

COMMENT LETTER # 28

Ruth C. Douglas
3451 Silverado Trail North
St. Helena, Calif. 94574

August 29 1982

Bureau of Land Management,
Ukiah,California 95482

Dear Sir:

I hope this reaches you before the deadline:illness and then several weeks away from home explain why I have been unable to comment at length on CEDAR ROUGHS.

Briefly -because I have no time left for anything else but brevity - I will state:

Cedar Roughs is in every way qualified for the status of wilderness- and only wilderness status will fully protect Cedar Roughs -now and in the foreseable future

28-1 Please let me know WHY you will not place Cedar Roughs in the wilderness protected areas.

Cedar Roughs is necessary to Napa County.Napa County has NO wilderness areas under Federal protection of the Wilderness Act.
Cedar Roughs represents an ecology that is very typical of Napa County.
Although the area barely qualifies as far sa size is concerned -it just about clears the five thousand acre limitation as far as wilderness dimensions are concerned - this small wilderness does have the qualities of solitude and silence as specified requirements necessary for wilderness classification.

Your present decision for Cedar Roughs -hopefully not yet finalized- is to exclude this area from the PERMANENT protection of wilderness status.

I fail to see any real justification for this decision.Scientific studies of plant life or any other life form are not hindered by wilderness classification. You are perfectly well aware of this.
28-2 Access ?Obviously wilderness classification is going to close the area to any motorized travel but I cannot think of many more destructive impacts on the area than allowing for motorized access or travel whether by scientists -or others.

Cedar Roughs deserves and needs the status of official wilderness classification.

Please reconsider and if possible -please reply to this letter.

Cedar Roughs is dear to me.I have lived in Napa Valley for over 20 years now and have always regreted that the County had no protected wilderness. Cedar Roughs Wilderness would fill this gap ....

Awaiting your reaction

sincerely Ruth Douglas Ruth C.Douglas

III

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 28

28-1 Please see Response to Comment 11-1.

28-2 Any access by researchers is anticipated to be very minimal and would be restricted to existing trails. Estimated number of vehicle entries by researchers per year by 1990 under the Nonwilderness Alternative is only 75.

COMMENT LETTER # 29

Amy F Fagin

Dear Sirs,

I would like to assert my support for designating as wilderness areas Rocky Creek, and Cedar Roughs. The No-wilderness proposal is the DRAFT EIS. Not only would critical wildlife habitat be protected, but even more important would be the preservation of coast range chaparral plant community rapidly being subdivided by the state. I feel it essential to preserve these areas for the recreation of urban dwellers in the SACTO. area, as well as preserving these arts for the wonder with which they were born.

COMMENT LETTER # 30

July 30, 1982

Dear Friend:

I am writing in support of wilderness designation for the Cedar Roughs area near Lake Berryessa and the Rocky Creek / Cache Creek area. My family and I have enjoyed these areas and want to preserve them in their natural state for the future. I urge you to reconsider the status of these 2 areas.

Sincerely,

Robin R. Fine

COMMENT LETTER # 31

August 26, 1982

District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940
Ukiah, CA 95482-0940

Dear Sir:

I attended your public hearing concerning preliminary wilderness recommendations for the Clear Lake Resource Area, held in Woodland on August 2, 1982. At that time I had not had a chance to read the draft EIS and in a brief oral statement advocated wilderness status for both the Cedar Roughs and the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA's. After the hearing I called the Ukiah office and requested a copy of the EIS, which was sent to me without delay. I would also like to say that I appreciated getting it and I also picked up some of the printed material provided ath the hearing and found it interesting and helpful. Thank you.

After reading the EIS carefully and thinking it over, I find that my position on one of the WSA's has changed somewhat. I will discuss each WSA separately.

(1) Cedar Roughs

I think this area amply fills the necessary criteria for wilderness status and fully deserves it. It is a virtually untouched landscape offering a unique visual experience because of its one-of-a-kind 5,000 acre stand of Sargent Cypress, and the rugged chapparal bareness of its character. The cypress stand deserves special consideration from a biological long-term view, as well, since it is the only one known that has not hybridized and thus represents a gene pool of significance. Further, the area qualifies since there are minimal grazing acres in use, there are no known mineral deposits nor leases in effect, and the one area of thermal springs has only slight possibility of mild geothermal activity. Further, it does not hold scattered residential property.

To so many people this is an interesting and worthwhile type of terrain and she is not consistently be dismissed as not worthy of serious regard in its own right and for its own sake. The opportunity for solitude is marvelous; that blessed quiet is one of the prime reasons to give it wilderness status. (Incidentally, I don't think PG & E's proposed transmission corridor should be allowed through the Cedar Roughs area.) Such status would also help protect the existing fish and wildlife, not least of which are the black bear and cat populations. I feel strongly that there ought to be some places where the "common terrestrial wildlife species"---however mundane they may seem to many people---are allowed to live out their natural life cycles undisturbed by man's interference. Cedar Roughs appears to qualify admirably as outright wilderness and for all these reasons, I therefore recommend Alternative (All Wilderness) for that area.

113

31-1

-2-

(2) Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA

31-2

This area is complicated considerably by the number and placement of inholdings, both state and private. Although geographically, geomorphically, biologically, and aesthetically it is justifiably worthy of wilderness designation, the presence of these parcels would make it difficult to manage in the pure wilderness state. A real potential would exist for problems of (a) trespass, both inadvertent and volitional, (b) proper access to existing holdings, particularly as it relates to the grazing of cattle and the providing of police and fire protection for residents, and (c) the possibility of development of activities not consistent with the wilderness idea. Ideally, I would like to see BLM acquire all the inholdings so that wilderness status could be granted. But realistically I don't think it is feasible at this stage in the chronological development of the area. My emphasis in moving away from my original pick of wilderness status is on the trespass (and sometimes accompanying vandalism) problem since I feel the people who function in the area as private individuals are entitled to their privacy and a reasonable hope of security. This might be jeopardized if the entire area were termed wilderness since others might be confused by or just plain disdainful of the fence lines and posted signs. I think the local residents are concerned both with their own vulnerability and the potential problems of "rescuing" disabled hikers. Their fears may be exaggerated, but in all honestly I do not know if this is so. But it is primarily out of regard for them that I reluctantly pick Alternative 2 (Partial Wilderness) for this WSA.

My reasons for moving away from Alternative 1 are not motivated, however, by concern for the oil, gas and geothermal leases. The expected "low-risk" of use is speculative and does not stand up before other considerations. The cold mining also does not appeal because I fear that the acreage involved there will be too torn up to justify the already acknowledged low-grade yield. Virtual destruction of the area will be required in order for a few people to pocket some profits. And there are no assurances about the good condition of the land that they may or may not leave behind. Ideally, I would hope that BLM would have proposed to acquire these leases and abolish this impending development, even under Alternative 2, leaving even so the two other areas open for non-wilderness use.

Alternative 2 will provide an easier management situation for BLM and provides a compromise between resource protection and production. It would maintain the whitewater character of Cache Creek and its accompanying bald eagle wintering range, would support the senitive plant habitats, and generally provide a still considerable acreage for the wilderness experience. The tule elk habitat would continue to be operated (and possibly improved), and the firebreak on Little Blue Ridge could be sustained.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these two WSA's now under consideration by BLM.

Marilyn Glac
Davis, Calif.

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 31

31-1 The Sargent cypress stand is recognized for its uniqueness and will receive protection under our Nonwilderness Alternative in the form of ACEC/RNA designation.

31-2 BLM just completed a major land acquisition, along with the State Wildlife Conservation Board, in the Wilson Valley area which was the major block of private land near the geographic center of the WSA. Plans are currently under way to acquire the remaining private and State Lands Commission inholdings.

COMMENT LETTER # 32

CSTAR ROUTE BOX 33
Capay, Ca 95607
August 12, 1982

District Manager
B.L.M.
Ukiah, Ca P.O.Box 940
95482

Subject: Rock Creek - Cache Creek Wilderness Area

Dear Sir:

32-1 Were it not for the fact that the farmers of Yolo County used Cache Creek as a conveyance of their irrigation water which is stored in Clear Lake and Indian Valley, there would be no summer river runs and no conflict of interest. For some reason all kids who have made a river run and read Moby Dick suddenly become full fledged environmentalists. Their views of the Rocky C. -Cache C. Wilderness Area conflicts with that of the farmers.

This irrigation system is some 70 years old. It is in a sad need of repairs and the canals need enlargement to handle the increased volume of water. Because the farmers must pay for the purchase of the system out of water sales, there is little left for repairs or renovation of the system.

An investment group is interested in the hydroelectric capabilities of 3 locations on Cache Creek and, over a period of time, will have paid enough for implementation of the needed repairs.

32-2 So we farmers are against anything that will stop or interfere with the 3 hydroelectric projects.- or any other vital improvements which might be made over the years.

****

32-3 Should a full wilderness catagory be given Cache Creek, it is most important that all river runs cease. The pseudo-environmentalists would be poking their noses into the eagle and blue-heron nests along the entire Cache Creek run.

My grandmother threatened to crush my skull if I ever went near her setting hens because they were prone to desert the nests if disturbed. If a long domesticated fowl gets upset by amateur egg counters & flash-picture taking, imagine how upset eagles and blue herons must get. Just year before last some Sierra Club member dropped a California Condor egg from its nest and broke it. The only protection nesting birds would have from river-run people is the complete stopping of all river runs in Cache Creek..

Sincerely yours,
Charles M. Gordon
Charles M. Gordon

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 32

32-1 The river corridor was only one of five special features studied in assessing the relative wilderness suitability characteristics of the Rocky Creek/Cache Creek WSA.

32-2 There are currently no plans by Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District for further hydroelectric development within the WSA; future development may occur on Cache Creek outside of the WSA. Wilderness designation would not affect these projects unless water is backed up onto lands of the WSA by associated dams.

32-3 There are no eagle (bald or golden) nest sites and only a few scattered great blue heron nest sites along Cache Creek. Nesting occurs in the springtime, generally before the irrigation season begins, and at this time there isn't enough water in Cache Creek for boating.

COMMENT LETTER # 33

1520 Patricks Point Dr. #3
Trinidad, Ca 95570

August 24, 1982

District Manager/Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940
Ukiah, Ca 95482-0940

Dear District Manager,

Please include the following comments in the public record:

The Draft EIR for the Cache Creek and Cedar Rougha Wilderness Study Areas is adequate in identifying the land use and resource conflicts posed by potential wilderness designation of the two areas but, unfortuantely, the proposed actions and the rationale behind them show no logic, poor judgment, and an evident pro-development bias. I strongly urge the BLM to reconsider its recommendations to Alternative 1 for Cedar Rougha and to Alternative 2 for Cache Creek.

33-1 One major error evident in the document was that wilderness was not considered as a significant resource. This flaw biased the report's conclusions and recommendations.

The Cedar Rougha WSA is identified as having value as a natural area. It is described as "unique," "important," and "pristine." It has no known economically exploitable resources. The one resource in abundance is wilderness. This is the resource which should be protected and exploited by developing the area for primitive recreation and biological research. Alternative 1 should be the proposed action. There is no reason not to protect this area as a wilderness, and there are plenty of reasons supporting such a legislative designation.

The Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA poses more problems because of the conflicts between resource exploitation and wilderness preservation. However, a viable alternative was presented in the document. Alternative 2 recognizes the need to develop and exploit high potential mineral and energy resources while preserving the integrity of the Cache Creek watershed.

In both cases the rationale describes the wilderness characteristics as "marginal" despite other references to their outstanding qualities. This anti-wilderness bias which surfaces only in the rationale betrays the Bureau's abdication of its legal responsibilities in 1) creating a objective informational document, and 2) basing proposed actions on logical management premises.

Again, I hope the BLM will reconsider its preliminary decision and opt of Alternative 1 for Cedar Roughs and Alternative 2 for Cache Creek.

I hope these comments have been of some value and I await the updated documents.

Sincerely yours,

Benjamin Green

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 33

33-1 Several wilderness characteristics were studied when evaluating the potential of each WSA being designated wilderness. These characteristics were naturalness, solitude, opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and any special features found in the WSA. These all add up to a definition of the wilderness resource. Overall, we felt the wilderness characteristics were marginal, and not obviously "outstanding."

COMMENT LETTER # 34

August 17, 1982

29900 Highway 20
Fort Bragg, California 95437

District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940
Ukiah, California 95482

Public Record - Cedar Roughs, Rocky Creek - Cache Creek Wilderness Proposals

Dear Sir:

Having carefully reviewed the pertinent documents, and having visited the Cedar Roughs, Rocky Creek - Cache Creek wilderness study areas, I would like to recommend to BLM a Wilderness designation for these areas.

34-1 Cedar Roughs meets in an outstanding way every possible wilderness criterion, and would make a valuable addition to our National Wilderness Preservation System. Wilderness resources are present in great quantity and diversity. There is opportunity for extensive solitude and primitive recreation. Encroachments on wilderness resources from the outside are minimal. Administrative problems would be minimal. Careful trail development in the area could serve a large relatively nearby population. The Cedar Roughs area is especially known for its unique plant communities. Watershed areas would be protected from ORV degradation.

I believe that the Congressional record will show that many areas far less deserving than Cedar Roughs have been included in the federal wilderness system across the nation. This outstanding area clearly qualifies, and should be included in the wilderness system also. Recommendation: Adopt Alternative 1 - "All Wilderness."

Rocky Creek - Cache Creek WSA also qualifies as wilderness, but with an increase in administrative responsibilities. More thought needs to be given to core area additions. Speculative mining claims need to be acquired. Existing dirt roads should be put to rest, designated for adminsitrative use only, or converted to trails. The





Cache Creek boating potential needs to be recognized, evaluated, and included in the final wilderness plan. The rare Tule Elk herd provides a significant addition to wilderness attributes.

Although the task of preserving the wide variety of wilderness resources on Rocky Creek - Cache Creek will require some very innovative and dedicated effort, I believe that these resources are so valuable that we must undertake such a wilderness effort. Recommendation: Adopt Alternative 2 - A good compromise between resource conservation and production, and wilderness.

Thank you for your consideration. Please keep me informed.

Ron Guenther

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 34

34-1 It is our opinion that the potential wilderness characteristics of Cedar Roughs are not outstanding, when one considers all of the required criteria. Even on a regional (not national) basis, we maintain that the wilderness characteristics of Cedar Roughs are not considered outstanding, but are marginal.

COMMENT LETTER # 35

639 P Street
Sacramento CA 95814
August 29, 1982

District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 940
Ukiah CA 95482-0940
Dear District Manager:

I've received the draft EIS for the preliminary wilderness recommendations for Rocky Creek-Cache Creek and Cedar Roughs WSA's. I have several comments, first with regard to Cedar Roughs. Alternative 1 is the better choice in the long run; my reasons follow:

35-1

a) Your evaluation says "the dense vegetation in Cedar Roughs makes opportunities to find seclusion very good." This is exactly one of the criteria Congress set for wilderness.

b) I believe there is great opportunity for primitive forms of recreation now. As time goes on and the nation's population grows, the vegetation and topography of Cedar Roughs will become interesting and challenging to more and more users.

c) Sound pollution is minimal here. Freedom from the sounds of civilization is invaluable.

d) The northern coast range of California has few wilderness areas presently. This range needs more to balance the many in higher mountain ranges.

e) Cedar Roughs is very close to several SMSA's. Thus, it is even more important to preserve the Roughs in its natural state.

f) The cypress stand is a significant plant community and thus, as you say, a unique feature. It is of interest to many people and to many more as population increases. It needs legislative rather than administrative protection.

I have not visited Cedar Roughs, but, having circumnavigated it, I know I must visit...the pull is very strong...I and others need this type of land for our good health. Please designate Cedar Roughs as wilderness.

Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA should become wilderness also. I have visited Harley Gulch and Lang's Peak. These places, along with others I've heard about in the WSA, will become ever more important to our national well-being.

35-2

a) Geothermal, oil and gas development potential in this WSA is highly speculative; these resources shouldn't be the basis for denying wilderness status.

35-3

b) Manageability of the WSA could be increased by acquiring non-federal inholdings. This action remains feasible, expecially now, since "there are no indications that incompatible development and/or the demand for road access" will occur, to quote from your page 3-5.

35-4

c) Gold in the area has low assay percentage. If it were mined, the land disruption would be tremendous. The land would be far more valuable in its natural state than would be the gold mined.

d) Contrary to your assertion (p. 2-17) that "most of the WSA outside the Cache Creek corridor and botanical natural area...has limited recreational value", I believe that this land has much recreational value, including opportunity for wilderness winter hiking.

f) The chaparral hill landscape is highly attractive for hiking and wildlife observation, contrary to your assertion on page 4-7.

Please recommend wilderness designation for Cedar Roughs and Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA's.

Sincerely yours,

Kay Locke

Kay Locke

cc: Morris Udall
Chairman, Interior Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 35

35-1 Please see Response to Comment 11-1.

35-2 This was not the basis for our Proposed Action. Overall, the area was rated as not possessing obviously outstanding wilderness characteristics, but marginal wilderness.

35-3 Please see Response to Comment 31-2.

35-4 The majority of use (boating, hiking, camping) in the Cache Creek WSA has been shown to occur along the river corridor. We agree that some recreation occurs in the surrounding chaparral uplands, but the majority of use is along the river corridor.

COMMENT LETTER # 36

26 August 1982

Dear Sir/Madam:

I strongly urge you to declare the Rocky Creek/Cache Creek WSA and the Cedar Roughs WSA as valuable lands to be preserved by Congress as wilderness. I know the first area quite well, having bird-watched extensively – the area is great in spring migration. It deserves protection.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Tom Lowe (Ph.D.)

COMMENT LETTER # 37

Sept 1 1982

Dear Manager,

I am writing in regards to the Cache Creek area. As a resident of Davis I go to Cache Creek quite often for recreation. When friends from down south come to visit, one of their favorite spots to hike or raft, picnic or swim has always been cache creek. It is a beautiful area and should be preserved for the enjoyment of everyone.

I want to state my opposition to <u>any</u> development of the Cache Creek area. Far too much wilderness area has been sacrificed already; we must preserve what little we have left.

Thank you very much

Marjorie Lovell

Marjorie Lovell
T.B. 13 UCD
Davis CA
95616

COMMENT LETTER # 38

1/24/87

Att: District Manager,

I favor Wilderness Designation for the Cache Creek and Cedar Roughs Area, portions of Clear Lake Resource Area, an area on which a draft EIS was just made.

Sincerely,

Patrick E. McSweeney

PATRICK E. McSWEENEY
566 BELVEDERE STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94117

COMMENT LETTER # 39

Ada Merhoff
P.O. Box 6,
Davis, CA-95617

August 18, 1982

District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940, Ukiah, CA-95482-0940

To whom it may concern,

I am on vacation, was unable to attend the August 2 meeting where I planned to urge wilderness status for Cedar Roughs CA-050-351 and for Rocky Ridge CA-050-317.

With a strong sense of heritage and a desire to secure for future generations those values I treasure today, I feel an imperative to protect large presently unspoiled areas with wilderness designation--to insure for my grandchildren the opportunity to enjoy and know the 'land as it is' with its flora and fauna, its sounds, fragrances, vistas as they have evolved through the years of California history.

39-1 I am quite familiar with the Rocky Ridge area, having studied the history of its homesteaders, its sulphur springs where pioneer residents camped each fall to 'take the waters' after they became less diluted with early run-off, the adjacent road building in 1875. Now, this area with its peaks and long vistas, the beauty of Cache Creek, the abundance of native shrubs and flowers, the stillness, the watching a bald eagle offers the opportunity to experience these values in a large unmodified natural setting within a few hours' drive of two metropolitan centers.

I have seen the surprise and joy of people I have led on hiking parties into these mountains late in the year--that there can be a high local area so rich in beauty to afford a day-long hiking experience at Thanksgiving time! Again this year I will lead a 'Cache Creek hike' the first weekend in December.

I always deplore the damage to land and wildlife resulting from off-road vehicle use in an unspoiled mountain-valley area--protection against this is especially important in the Rocky Ridge area of much loosely consolidated material where land slides and natural erosion historically are a seasonal occurence.

39-2 I have never hiked the Cedar Rough area, have studied topo maps and 35mm slides. Again, I feel it urgent that we preserve this area with wilderness status to guarantee its protection against off-road vehicle use--to provide an alternative primitive recreation experience in the Lake Berryessa vicinity. With its scenic beauty, opportunity for solitude, an undisturbed wild life habitat--it is a valuable addition to California wilderness.

I sincerely hope the Bureau recognizes the value of retaining 'native California' recreation sites accessible to us living along the coastal range.

Thank You Very Much,

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 39

39-1 The area you refer to, Rocky Ridge, is not included within the Rocky Creek/Cache Creek WSA.

39-2 There will be no public vehicle access under our Preferred Alternative. See Response to Comment Letter 6.

COMMENT LETTER # 40

Harry Metzger
227 Ashlar Drive
Napa, CA 94558

Aug. 3, 1982

Subject — Recommendation for Alternative 1 — All Wilderness Status for BLM Cedar Roughs Wilderness Study Area.

Dear Mr. BLM Manager Manning,

1. Please recommend Alternative 1 — all Wilderness status for BLM Cedar Roughs Wilderness Study Area; 7,200 acres because —

(a) It contains a remarkably uniform 5,000 acre stand of Sargent cypress; the largest stand in existence.

(b) Man's imprint on it is unnoticeable.

(c) It offers solitude, peace, and quiet for recreational walking and exploring.

(d) It is the only area in Napa County where black bears breed.

(e) It contains two creeks, and several springs to provide water for wildlife.

2. Please use this letter for your BLM wilderness study program.

3. I hope that we can save this unique area from development, exploitation, and destruction for our future generations of Americans.

4. Thank you Sir, Mr. BLM Manager Manning.

Sincerely Yours,
Harry Metzger

COMMENT LETTER # 41

Harry Metzger
227 Ashlar Drive
Napa, CA 94558

Aug. 3, 1982

Subject — Recommendation for Alternative 1 — All Wilderness Status for BLM Rocky Creek — Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area.

Dear Mr. BLM Manager Manning,

1. Please recommend Alternative 1 — all Wilderness status for BLM Rocky Creek — Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area; 34,000 acres because

(a) It offers solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation and whitewater boating.

(b) It contains rare and endangered bald eagles and tule elk.

(c) It contains a good example of north coast California chaparral plant communities, including serpentine barrens.

41-1 (d) Man's imprint on it is unnoticeable.

(e) It contains Cache Creek, Rocky Creek, and Trout Creek to provide water and fish for wildlife.

2. I hope that we can save this unique area from development, exploitation, and destruction for our future generations of Americans.

3. Please use this letter for your BLM wilderness study program.

4. Thank you Sir, Mr. BLM Manager Manning.

Sincerely Yours,
Harry Metzger

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 41

41-1 The Rocky Creek/Cache Creek WSA when viewed from the air shows man's imprint as being more noticeable. This is in the form of 45 miles of jeep trails, two large firebreaks from recent wildfire-suppression activities, and a portion of the WSA adjacent to a county sanitary landfill where littering on these adjacent WSA lands is a serious problem.

COMMENT LETTER # 42

August 25, 1982

Dear Sir,

I have read the environmental impact statement on the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA and wish to say I agree with you that Alternative 3 is the best one for this area. My main criticism is that not much is said about off-road vehicles.

42-1 I realize that we cannot keep them out of an area like this but I hope there will be restrictions on where they can go. There are many serpentine out-croppings in the region; some of the rarest and most interesting native plants in California grow only on serpentine, (Purdy's Lily, Fritillaria purdyi is one of these) so we do want to see them protected.

Yours sincerely,
Helen Richardson
3488 Scotts Valley Rd.
Lakeport CA 95453

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 42

42-1 Under the Proposed Alternative for Rocky Creek/Cache Creek WSA, the 11,108-acre Northern California Chaparral Research Natural Area would be closed to all off-road vehicle use, except that which is required for approved research activities. This area contains serpentine outcrops, where potential habitat for rare plants exists. Under this alternative also, Wilson Valley which is critical Bald Eagle and tule elk habitat would have a total vehicle closure. Vehicle barriers such as steel cables would be used to enforce this closure. Also frequent patrols of the area would be made by the BLM Ranger, Fish and Game Wardens, and Lake County Sheriff's Office.

COMMENT LETTER # 43

August 27, 1982

Van W. Manning, District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 940
Ukiah, CA 95482-0940

Dear Mr. Manning:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement concerning the preliminary wilderness recommendations for the Cedar Roughs WSA and Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA within the Clear Lake Resource Area. These two wilderness study areas are of particular concern to me because they provide geographically close wilderness recreation opportunities.

I strongly support Alternative I - All Wilderness for the Cedar Roughs WSA and the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA and urge the BLM to do likewise. The DEIS provides no substantial nor convincing reasons for omitting these two WSA's from wilderness status except that they have "little attractiveness or other wilderness values." The statutory definition of wilderness does not require high mountains, conifer forests, or waterfalls. Wilderness basically means relatively untouched by human hands. Furthermore, these two WSA's have excellent wilderness values including naturalness, outstanding scenic and recreational values (particularly during the winter months), lack of roads and development, good opportunities for solitude, unique vegetation, chaparral features which are underrepresented in the wilderness system, and important habitats for rare, endangered, threatened and sensitive wildlife species. 43-1

Cedar Roughs WSA

The DEIS discusses on page 3-1 one of many criteria necessary for wilderness areas by stating that "Man's imprint on the landscape of the Cedar Roughs WSA is substantially unnoticeable." Additionally, seclusion is very good and easily available, as the DEIS states on page 3-1. The Cedar Roughs WSA is an excellent winter recreation area geographically close to major urban centers such as the San Francisco Bay Area and the Sacramento metropolitan area. This WSA contains further evidence of wilderness values by including the largest known pure genetic reserve of Sargent cypress in wilderness areas and by providing the only known black bear breeding grounds in Napa County. These resources should receive permanent protection affordsd most affectively under the wilderness preservation system.

Furthermore, the DEIS states on page 4-2 that there are no known mineral deposits in this WSA; and there are no existing claims or lease applications (stated in Table 5-2, page 5-4). On page 3-4, the DEIS states in the manageability discussion that "There are no existing rights or interests in the WSA that would prevent preservation of its long-range wilderness character." Negotiations for purchase or land exchange of the 144-acre inholding should be ardently pursued particularly since there are no current plans for development of the parcel (stated in Table 5-2, page 5-4, under Land Tenure).

Clearly, there are overwhelming reasons, both in terms of excellent wilderness characteristics and feasible manageability, for inclusion of the Cader Roughs area in the wilderness preservation system.





Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA

Contrary to the DEIS discussion on page 2-17, the highest quality wilderness values will not be protected and managed under the recommended Alternative 3 - No Wilderness (Special Resource Protection/ACEC). The Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation process (Federal Register Aug. 27, 1980) is not only cumbersome and ambiguous, but also it could allow development to occur in an ACEC at the District Manager's discretion, unlike wilderness area management requirements. Furthermore, protection afforded under ACEC designation can be modified by a change in office or administration policy whereas wilderness status protection can only be changed for the public's benefit by an act of Congress. 43-2

There are many good reasons for making this WSA a wilderness. The large, undisturbed serpentine chaparral in this WSA would provide the only major representation in the wilderness system of this typical coastal plant community. This WSA contains important habitats for wintering bald eagles and tule elk which receive full protection by the State Department of Fish and Game and for golden eagles and prairie falcons, both threatened species. At the August 2, 1982 public hearing in Woodland, it was brought out that the actual value of gold in soils in the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA is probably very low. Thus, a more thorough resource analysis is needed before decisions are made to eliminate all or portions of this WSA from wilderness. Additionally, the DEIS states that geothermal, and oil and gas applications are highly speculative. The DEIS reveals that the presence of minerals is also highly speculative and the potential is low (page 5-6). There are plenty of opportunities for mining on other BLM areas which were initially excluded from the WSA inventory process (such as the Little Blue Ridge area). Also, wilderness status of slopes in the Cache Creek corridor will insure protection of aesthetic and visual qualities for rafters down this Class II whitewater river. 43-3

Again, I strongly urge the BLM Ukiah District Office to support Alternative I - All Wilderness for the Cedar Roughs WSA and Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA. Please reconsider your preliminary evaluations based upon my above comments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Theresa G. Rumjahn

Theresa G. Rumjahn
22 Domingo Ave., #16
Berkeley, CA 94705

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 43

43-1 It is our opinion that all factors considered, these two WSAs do not overall possess obviously outstanding wilderness characteristics, but are marginal for their wilderness characteristics.

43-2 ACECs are established through the BLM planning process. Although the protection of the resources for which the ACEC was established is not as complete as under wilderness designation, any change in ACEC management direction is subject to public involvement and BLM State Director approval.

43-3 The Bald Eagle is the only endangered species (both federally and state-listed) which uses the WSA extensively. The tule elk, Golden Eagle, and Prairie Falcon are not listed as federally threatened or endangered species. They do receive limited State protection however.



COMMENT LETTER #44

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY • Arcata, California 95521 • (707) 826-3245

Biological Sciences

Van W. Manning
District Manager
Ukiah District
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940
Ukiah, CA 95482

July 4, 1982

Dear Mr. Manning,

I have reviewed your draft environmental impact statement and preliminary wilderness recommendations for the Clear Lake Resource Area. I am in accord with your recommendations to retain Research Natural Areas classification for the Cedar Roughs area, and the special resources protection classification for the Rocky Creek-Cache Creek area.

44-1 For a long time I have argued for wilderness classification for the area to protect an extensive example of natural landscape of Lake County. Your preferred alternate protects about half the Cache Creek area more completely than wilderness classification would. For this reason, I support your proposed action. As more of the Ukiah District vegetation is modified from the natural setting, areas classified to emphasize natural vegetation will become more rare. I believe they will increasingly be sought out for recreation as well as for their more primary use, study.

I am pleased that your staff not only recognizes the need to retain unique areas, but also typical vegetation in this botanically important part of California.

Sincerely,

J. O. Sawyer, Jr.
Professor of Botany

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 44

44-1 Protection of the vegetation resources in the two WSAs would actually be greater under a wilderness designation than under the Preferred Alternative, because certain action (for example new mining developments) can be allowed in ACECs and RNA, but not in wilderness areas.

COMMENT LETTER #45

BLM District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Box 940, Ukiah, Ca 95482

Dear Sir,

I am writing to tell you my opinions regarding the Rocky Creek/Cache Creek "Wilderness Study Area". I really think this is a beautiful area and it would be a shame to leave it open to mining and especially terrible to put a dam on cache creek, as I have read the Yolo County Flood Control District wants to do. Please designate this area "wilderness" and protect it for future generations.

45-1

Sincerely,

Clarke Shields
Graduate Student and Teacher
U.C. Davis Ca
Dept. of Vegetable Crops

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 45

45-1 Please see Response to Comment 8-1.

COMMENT LETTER #46

**McKinley Park Station Hotel**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you about the wilderness area of Cash creek and Blue Ridge - Rocky Ridge

I hiked through the area early in May 1982

I think it should be kept as a wilderness area

I live in Napa when I am not wandering in Alaska

Sincerely yours,

June Smith
1069 Second Ave.
Napa, Calif 94558

**McKinley Park, Alaska**
**99755**



COMMENT LETTER #47

JOHN R. SWANSON
P. O. Box 922
Berkeley, Calif. 94701

July 19, 1982.

District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940
Ukiah, California 95482

Sir or Sir,

Please accept my comments, as follows, concerning the Preliminary Wilderness Recommendations for the Cache Creek Resource Area Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I am acquainted with the wilderness areas as described in this document and am of the firm opinion that they possess not only important wilderness values but scenic, wildlife-habitat, botanic and cultural resources all of national importance.

In our world of rapid urban sprawl - industrial exploitation these wilderness areas serve as a natural refuge for Man and for all life on this earth. Quite such areas are clearly the last of our nation's natural heritage lands, and the foundation of our federal public lands.

For wilderness means freedom, just as to deny Americans wilderness is to deny Americans freedom.

The following areas, with acreage, to be included within our National Wilderness Preservation System.

- Rocky Creek / Cache Creek 36,000
- Cedar Roughs 7,500

Let us, then, save our quickly lost wilderness heritage lands.

Sincerely,

John R. Swanson.

COMMENT LETTER #48

District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 940
Ukiah, CA
95482 0940

August 6, 1982

Dear Sir/madam,

I'm writing to you in support of the move to establish Wilderness Areas in the Cedar Roughs and Rocky Creek Cache Creek Wilderness Study Areas

As a resident of Yolo county I recognize the importance of maintaining wilderness which is accessible and close by

I am a white water enthusiast and especially interested in preserving the Cache Creek area

Thank you.

Marian Teeple

COMMENT LETTER #49

July 27, 1982

District Manager
Ukiah District Office
Bureau of Land Management
Ukiah, Ca

Dear Sir:

I am greatly concerned about the Cedar Roughs WSA and Rocky Creek - Cache Creek WSA. It is my hope both will become wilderness areas.

Cedar Roughs proximity to the Bay area and Fairfield provides wilderness recreation for a large number of people

Rocky Creek - Cache Creek provides a sanctuary for many forms of wild life including bear, Tule elk and golden eagle. This area also furnishes close white water recreation for a large segment of the population attending from Sacramento to the Bay Area

Both are needed now and with population growth will be of even more value in the future.

Sincerely,
Kenneth Thatcher
2743 Cypress St
Napa Ca 94558

COMMENT LETTER #50

8-31-82
Pg I

Re: Rocky Creek - Cache Creek
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

DRAFT EIS
BLM DISTRICT MANAGER
UKIAH DISTRICT OFFICE
(IN CARE OF) BARBARA GIBBONS

Just two hours drive from Marin County, a little more from San Francisco, a little less from Sacramento is the Rocky Creek - Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area. To leave the noise of the city and be climbing the Little Blue Ridge mountains for maybe just a one day outing, climbing 2200 ft to 2700 ft then higher - to be King of the Mountain for only a day - multiplied by many times one for many years to come: we must consider those values now for ourselves and for those who do not even know a decision is being formulated.

8-31-82
Pg 2.

This is chaparral country a little scrub oak looking today as it did hundred of years ago. The once vast domain of the chaparral has already been drastically reduced - replaced by monetary things like homes, factories etc. Here in the Rocky Creek - Cache Creek area are thousands of acres of chaparral a pristine landscape that could be changed but the question is - should it. Today each of us (and I've enjoyed many hours of pleasure amist the beautiful sights of these hills) has an opportunity to feel the absolute quite - hear only those chosen sounds that a Wilderness affords. Someday we won't be here, our children will grow old - but a new baby will be born and when he is old enough to ask will they have to say "These hills used to be completely natural all covered with

chaparral which was a ~~to~~ small rounded oak that was so tenacious not even a forest fire could destroy it - but some men and women put down rules and regulation that did destroy it." I will not be a party to this - we have a little a very little decision actually to be made - that is simply "PROTECT, LEAVE IT ALONE" - If this means ~~ass~~ all Wilderness designation let us go for it! We are not being asked to build something beautiful we are merely being asked to leave something already beautiful alone.

I understand this area meets all of the requirement for the air Wilderness classification. With the cost of getting to a wilderness area - this could be considered a unique factor



indeed. Many populated area and large cities within weekend driving time - an area which is attractive in the winter as in the summer - large enough to accomodate hundreds of people. Not only is the ground so untouched but because of the various mountains surrounding the area even the cities polluted air has little chance of getting here. The air is so pure that at nite the stars look like someone has provided the area with its own panoramic skyscape. Actually it's the reverse, someone has taken away our skyscape over the cities. And the chaparral and boulders in the moonlite. No one should be deprived of this sight - the simple monotony the absolute quite - like being on a new

8-31-82
Pg 5

planet - only two hours or less away and free. We can not allow ourselves to take the blame for taking this beauty away forever. Let us call ourselves the early Californian like the vaqueros who wore leather chaps to protect their legs from the Chaparro - hence the name chaparral - chaparral - here today here tomorrow!

Sincerely,
Grace Tindell
GRACE TINDELL
P. O. BOX 8
Ramsey Calif. 95679.

COMMENT LETTER #51

Napa Ca.
Aug. 25, 1982

Dist. Mgr.
Ukiah Dist. Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940, Ukiah Ca.

Dear Sir:

The case for wilderness status for both Cedar Roughe WSA and Rocky Creek - Cache Creek WSA is overwhelming. Both are unspoiled, natural areas needed for wildlife, watershed, and recreation. The rate of population increase in the Bay Area will result in an ever increasing demand for unspoiled natural areas.

I have hiked in both areas over the years and I strongly support wilderness classification for them, and sincerely hope that will be the BLM position also.

Yours Tru
Harry A Tranmer

HARRY A TRANMER
2670 MONTICELLO HC63
NAPA CA 94558

COMMENT LETTER #52

24 HOLIDAY DR
ALAMO CA 94507

western union Mailgram

4-000874S244 09/01/92 ICS IPMBNGZ OSP SROA
4158377551 MGM TDBN ALAMO CA 325 09-01 0225A EST

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
P O BOX 940
UKIAH CA 95482

0940 PROTEST NO CEDERS ROUGH WSA 1792-8500-CA 050 AND ROCKY CREEK AND
CACHE CREEK IN CLEAR LAKE RESERVE. THIS IS IN REGARD TO CEDERS ROUGH
AREA ONLY I OWN RANCH ON THE SOUTH BOUNDARY YOU WERE TO NOTICE ME OF
ALL MEETING A LETTER WILL FOLLOW. CEDERS ROUGH RELATIVE SMALL AREA
WATER IS ALMOST NON-EXISTENCE EXCEPT THIS YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME IN
40 YEARS CEDERS ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO WALK OVER THE 550 ACRES I OWN HAS
NO ROAD EXCEPT BORDER ROADS AND IS PROTECTED FROM HUNTING AND
HARRASSMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSIST OF 17 BEAR FORCED IN FROM DEVELOPED
ACRES BY ANTUIN THERE ARE SOME WILD TURKEY 2 GOLDEN EAGLES AND 2 BALD
QUAIL DEER THIS AREA HAS BEEN PROTECTED NOT EVEN RATTLESNAKE OR
COYOTES NO ENVIRNOMENTAL IMPACT STUDY OF VALUE WAS CONDUCTED NO
ADJOINER WAS NOTIFIED YOUR REPORT TALKS OF MEADOWS THESE ARE TARWEED
AREAS IF YOU HAD INVESTIGATED ON FOOT YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN NO 4 YEAR
STUDY WAS MADE OF THIS AREA (CEDERS ROUGH) AS WE HAVE KEPT A CLOSE
WATCH ON THE AREA YOUR REPORT OF CEDERS ROUGH WAS MADE APPARENTLY IN
YOUR OFFICE IN UKIAH NOT BY INVESTIGATION ANTHROPOLOGY HAVE NOT BEEN
MADE THIS AREA IS INDIAN GROUND HUNTING AREA, LIVING AREA AND BURIAL
ONE SKULL WAS PICKED YEARS AGO BY ME THIS AREA IS IN CEDERS AND
SURROUNDING SMALL VALLLEYS I HAVE NOTIFIED SEVERAL UNIVERSITIES TODAY
AND INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS I MAINTAIN YOUR REPORT IS A FARCE AS FAR AS
THE CEDERS GO I AM PREPARED TO DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO PREVENT
TRAILS OR ROADS I DO NOT PROTEST NUMBER ONE WILDERNESS AREA BUT
PROTEST TRAILS AND ROADS AND INSUFFICIENT INTERFERENCE BY BLM.

SIGNED: ROBERT WILEY 24 HOLIDAY DR ALAMO CA 94507 4158377551 FORMER
FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENT DEPT OF INTERIOR AND CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME
WARDEN MEMBER OF DESERT BIG HORN COUNCIL REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERING QUALITY CONTROL

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132

52-1

RESPONSE

COMMENT LETTER 52

52-1 There are no plans for any new road construction. Under our Proposed Action vehicle use would be limited to authorized research purposes. Trail construction would occur, so that <u>others</u> could enjoy these unique public lands.

COMMENT LETTER #53

District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Ukiah, Ca. 95482

Dear Sir, 7/6/82

I am writing to comment on the draft E. I. S. concerning wilderness recommendations for Cedar Roughs W. S. A. and Rocky Creek - Cache Creek W. S. A.

I believe the Cedar Roughs W.S.A. should be classified as wilderness. Wilderness designation for this area is the best management option. It is important to protect and preserve the "unique/sensitive plant communities" of this area and its many
53-1 other values. With no major conflicting land uses and its uniqueness, the Cedar Roughs is an ideal candidate for wilderness. To recommend non-wilderness designation, I feel, a mistake. Alternative 1 is the best option for proper land management of this area. To protect a small 7200 acre piece of your district is showing forethought and concern for the future. It also shows a more balanced approach to land management in your district. With the many values that wilderness designation protects, alternative 1 is the best alternative.

I am also in favor of alternative 1 for the Rocky Creek - Cache Creek W.S.A. Wilderness designation is by far the best option for this area. In this day and age of shrinking wildlands and increased resource exploitation, it is wise management to protect and preserve these last remaining remnant wildlands. The Wilderness System was meant to include all types of ecosystems, not just high mountains. Places such as Rocky Cache Creek should not be ignored, they contain ecological, scientific, educational, recreational, and intangible values just as your high mtn wildernesses. Protecting and preserving this area will add greatly a well balanced wilderness system.

Again, I urge you to consider all the values of wilderness designation and recommend wilderness for these two important areas in your district. If these are the only two roadless wild lands left in your district, then wilderness designation is almost a necessity, if you are truly managing your district under the concept of multiple use, and balanced land management. Thank you for your time and have a nice day.

Sincerely,

Steve Zachary
739 N. Oak St
Ukiah, Ca.
95482

---

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 53

53-1 The only other special feature identified in this WSA is the local black bear population.

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# GLOSSARY

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM): The amount of forage required to sustain the equivalent of one cow or five sheep for one month.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC): Areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

CONTIGUOUS: Lands or legal subdivisions having a common boundary; lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

FLPMA: The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579, 90 Stat. 2743.43 USC 1701).

IMPACT: To diminish in value or excellence.

KNOWN GEOTHERMAL RESOURCE AREA (KGRA): An area in which the geology, nearby discoveries, competitive interests, or other indicia would, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Interior, engender a belief in men who are experienced in the subject matter that the prospects for extraction of geothermal steam or associated geothermal resources are good enough to warrant expenditures of money for the purpose. (From Code of Federal Regulations (Title 43, Part 1000 to 3999, p. 436), Office of Federal Register, Washington D.C., 1981).

LIVESTOCK GRAZING OPERATIONS: Those operations under permit where the primary purpose is the grazing of livestock for the production of food and fiber. Includes pack and saddle stock used in conjunction with such operations.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN (MFP): The Bureau's basic planning decision document prior to the adoption of a new planning process in 1979, in which the decision document is a Resource Management Plan (RMP).

MINERAL ENTRY: The right to enter the Public Lands (under the administration of the BLM) to search for minerals and to claim or lease such minerals under the mining and mineral leasing laws and regulations.

MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT: Any machine activated by nonliving power source except small battery-powered, handcarried devices such as flashlights, shavers, Geiger counters, and cameras. Also "Mechanized Equipment."

MOTOR VEHICLE: Any vehicle which is self-propelled or any vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from batteries.

MULTIPLE RESOURCE VALUES AND USES: The present and potential use of the various resources administered through multiple use management on the public lands and any public values associated with such uses.

MULTIPLE USE: "...the management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; the use of some lands for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that take into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural, scenic, scientific, and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output." (From Section 103, FLPMA.)

NATURALNESS: Refers to an area which "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable." (From Section 2(c), Wilderness Act.)

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV): Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other terrain.

OUTSTANDING: 1. Standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. 2. Superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent.

PLANNING AREA: The area for which resources management plans are prepared and maintained. In most instances, it is the same as the resource area, which is a geographic portion of a BLM district, under supervision of an area manager.

PLANNING CRITERIA: The factors used to guide development of the resource management plan, or revision, to ensure that it is tailored to the issues previously identified and to ensure that unnecessary data collection and analyses are avoided. Planning criteria are developed to guide the collection and use of inventory data and information, the analysis of the management situation, the design and formulation of alternatives, the estimation of the effects of alternatives, the evaluation of alternatives, and the selection of the preferred alternative.

POPULATION CENTER: A Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) which has a population of 100,000 or greater. An SMSA is a county which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, plus as many adjacent counties as are metropolitan in character and are socially integrated with the central city or cities.

PRE-FLPMA: Before October 21, 1976, the date of approval of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION: Refers to a wilderness recommendation at any stage prior to the time when the Secretary of the Interior reports his recommendation to the President. Until the Secretary acts, the recommendation is "preliminary" because it is subject to change during administrative review.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Nonmotorized and undeveloped types of outdoor recreation activities.

PUBLIC LANDS: For the purpose of the wilderness review program, any lands and interest in lands owned by the United States within the several States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquire ownership, except:

1. Lands where the United States owns the minerals, but surface is privately owned.

2. Lands being held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos.

3. Lands tentatively approved for State selection in Alaska.

4. Lands on the Outer Continental Shelf.

5. Oregon and California grant (O & C) lands that are managed for commercial timber production.

RANGELAND IMPROVEMENTS: Any structural or nonstructural improvements which directly affect or support the use of the forage resource by domestic livestock, such as fences, line cabins, water lines, and stock tanks.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP): The basic decision document of BLM's resource management planning process, used to establish allocation and coordination among uses for the various resources within a Resource Area. An RMP is a "land-use plan" prescribed by Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. RMP regulations appear in 43 CFR 1601. (Refer to definition of Management Framework Plan.)

SMSA: Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area - See definition under "Population Center."

SOLITUDE: 1. The state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolation. 2. A lonely, unfrequented, or secluded place.

SUBSTANTIALLY UNNOTICEABLE: Refers to something that either is so insignificant as to be only a very minor feature of the overall area or is not distinctly recognizable by the average visitor as being man-made or man-caused because of age, weathering, or biological change. An example of the first would be a few minor dams or abandoned mine buildings that are widely scattered over a large area, so that they are an inconspicuous part of the scene. Serious intrusions of this kind, or many of them, may preclude inclusion of the land in a wilderness study area. An example of the second would be an old juniper control project that has grown up to a natural appearance, the old fallen trees largely decomposed.

SUITABILITY: As used in the Wilderness Act and in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, refers to a recommendation by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture that certain Federal lands satisfy the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Act and have been found appropriate for designation as wilderness on the basis of an analysis of the existing and potential uses of the land.

WILDERNESS: The definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891).

WILDERNESS AREA: An area formally designated by an Act of Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS: The definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891).

WILDERNESS INVENTORY: An evaluation of the public lands in the form of a written description and map showing those lands that meet the wilderness criteria as established under Section 603(a) of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act, which will be referred to as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs).

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT: The management of human use and influence on lands which have been designated by an Act of Congress as wilderness areas.

WILDERNESS PROGRAM: Term used to describe all wilderness activities of the Bureau of Land Management including identification, management, and administrative functions.

WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS: A recommendation by the Bureau of Land Management, the Secretary of the Interior, or the President, with respect to an area's suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness.

WILDERNESS REPORTING: The process of preparing the reports containing wilderness recommendations on wilderness study areas and transmitting those reports to the Secretary of the Interior, the President, and Congress.

WILDERNESS REVIEW: The term used to cover the entire wilderness inventory study and reporting phases of the wilderness program of the Bureau of Land Management.

WILDERNESS STUDY: The process that specifies how each wilderness study area must be studied through the BLM resource management planning system, analyzing all resources, values and uses within the WSA to determine whether the area will be recommended as suitable or nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA): A roadless area or island that has been inventories and found to have wilderness characteristics as described in Section 603 of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891).

WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENTS: Any structural or nonstructural improvements which directly affect or support the use of water, food, or shelter by wildlife, such a guzzlers, water lines, or fences.

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# Appendices

# United States Department of the Interior

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SACRAMENTO ENDANGERED SPECIES OFFICE
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1823
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

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May 9, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Ed Hastey, State Director, Bureau of Land Management, California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, California 95825

FROM: Project Leader, Endangered Species Office, Sacramento, California 95825

SUBJECT: Consultation requirements for BLM Wilderness Designation 8500 (CA-930.1) (Case No. 1-1-86-I-321)

In response to your May 6, 1986, request for informal consultation regarding designation or non-designation of wilderness status for Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's), we concur with your statement that this process does not require formal Section 7 consultation. Any future actions on WSA's that might affect a listed species can be evaluated at proposal stage and formal consultations initiated if needed.

If you have questions regarding this reply please contact me at FTS/460-4866.

Gail C. Kobetich

cc: Chief, Endangered Species, Portland, OR 97232 (AFA-SE)

IN REPLY REFER TO:

8500
CA-930.1

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

MAY 6 1986

Mr. Gail Kobetich, Project Leader
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sacramento Endangered Species Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Kobetich:

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management in California is preparing eleven final Wilderness EIS's during fiscal year 1986 that will analyze the environmental impacts of wilderness designation or non-designation on a total of 58 Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's). We hereby initiate informal consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act concerning this matter.

Some of these WSA's provide important habitat for federally listed or proposed endangered species (for example, Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles). It has been determined by the BLM that the designation or non-designation of these areas as wilderness by Congress (at the recommendation of the BLM) will have only incidental benefit to any threatened or endangered species involved, not significant positive or negative effects.

We seek your concurrence that these wilderness designations or non-designations do not themselves require formal Section 7 consultation, but that such consultation must be initiated prior to on-the-ground implementation of activities which may affect threatened or endangered species under wilderness or non-wilderness designations.

Your prompt reply will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ed Hastey
State Director

Form 1279-3
(June 1984)

BORROWER'S

QH 76.5 .C2 C58 1986
Wilderness recommenda
for Clear Lake Resou

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